

## **Interview with Al Weber**

### **Aleutian World War II National Historic Area Oral History Program**

**July 19, 2012, Fairbanks, Alaska**

**Interviewed by Janis Kozlowski, National Park Service  
Transcribed by Professional Transcripts**

*This interview is part of the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area Oral History Project. The interview with Al Weber was recorded with his permission on a HD DVD. Copies of the audio file are preserved in mp3, wav and wma formats and video on HD and MPEG-4 are on file at the offices of the National Park Service in Anchorage, Alaska.*

*The transcript has been lightly edited.*

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#### **0:00:00.1 Greetings and setting up for the interview**

**Al Weber:** Oh, okay. (Laughter) Cause I've got rhythm in my blood.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**Eileen Devinney:** That would be nice.

**Al Weber:** That's a fancy thing.

**Janis Kozlowski:** I know; it looks pretty fancy, doesn't it?

**Al Weber:** Egads, even got guards for the mikes, huh?

**Eileen Devinney:** I know. Yeah, all right.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So if things get wild in here.....

**Al Weber:** Hmm?

**Janis Kozlowski:** If things get wild in here, it won't get broken. Am I out of the picture down here?

**Al Weber:** (Laughs) Yeah, mine would.

**Eileen Devinney:** Yes, you are out of the picture.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay, that's -- they're both running.

**Eileen Devinney:** I'm going to get the power cord to hook up.....

**Al Weber:** I hope I didn't just mess her up; I just moved a little closer to the -- I don't hear so well, by the way.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, okay. Did -- is this.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, that's fine.

**Janis Kozlowski:** .....good enough?

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay.

**Al Weber:** I can hear you much better than most of the guys.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay.

**Al Weber:** I don't hear the lows very well anymore. You can guess why on that one.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Are we ready?

**Eileen Devinney:** Um-hmm.

#### **0:00:55.8 Introduction of interview**

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay. So, today is July 19, 2012, and we're at the Pioneer Home in Fairbanks. I'm Janis Kozlowski with the National Park Service and Eileen Devinney is here as well, behind camera. And we're speaking with Al Weber this morning.

#### **0:01:08.8 Kozlowski family in Palmer**

**Al Weber:** You said your name is Kozlowski?

**Janis Kozlowski:** It is Kozlowski.

**Al Weber:** You married to a Kozlowski?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yes.

**Al Weber:** From the Palmer area?

**Janis Kozlowski:** No. No, he's from New Jersey.

**Al Weber:** He is? (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yes.

**Al Weber:** Oh, God. I didn't even know there were any there.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yes.

**Al Weber:** Only ones I knew.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Lots.....

**Al Weber:** .....were Alaskan. Okay.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah. No, everybody knows the Kozlowskis from Palmer except us.

**Al Weber:** Yeah. (Laughter) Oh, yeah. Jan was a good friend of mine.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Really?

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** They had -- do they have a store here?

**Al Weber:** Yeah. They were right across the street from where I had a photo studio.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh!

**Al Weber:** And Jan and I had a lot of talking, over the years.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**Al Weber:** So, there you go.

#### **0:01:51.1 Growing up in Jersey City and coming to Alaska**

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, did you -- did you grow up in Alaska?

**Al Weber:** Well, at age 18 years and 2 months, I bailed out of Jersey City. I've been back twice for maybe 24 hours, 12, something like that. The answer is, yeah, I grew up in Jersey City.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, what brought you to Alaska?

**Al Weber:** Oh, that happened after I had been in the service. I was in the Coast Guard from '35 to '38. And while I was in there, I did my time and I was going to ship over -- I was going to go out on the Alaska ship, the icebreaker.

**0:02:41.5 Technical difficulties**

**Eileen Devinney:** Oh, wait a minute. Know what? I don't have that mike on.

**Al Weber:** What?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Do we need to start.....

**Eileen Devinney:** Yeah, sorry.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay. We have to start over. There was no sound.

**Al Weber:** There wasn't -- what sound?

**Janis Kozlowski:** I'm sorry.

**Al Weber:** Oh! Oh, I thought..... (laughs) Okay.

**Eileen Devinney:** I should have put it on .....

**Al Weber:** Oh, that's good.

**Eileen Devinney:** .....from yesterday. That kind of makes a difference, I am glad I checked it.....

**Al Weber:** So, anything we cover again, I'll just say we already.....

**Eileen Devinney:** We'll charge extra.

**Al Weber:** .....covered that? (Laughter)

**Eileen Devinney:** It's on the audio recorder.

**Janis Kozlowski:** No, just say -- yeah, extra charge for the repeat. (Laughter)

**Eileen Devinney:** Sorry about that. It's on the little recorder that's sitting next to you, though. We should have had you set up.

**Al Weber:** It's gotta go the other way.

**Eileen Devinney:** Mmm, it's three down.....

**Al Weber:** Some other way. (laughs)

**Eileen Devinney:** Yes. All right. Let's try again.

**Al Weber:** One size fits all, sometimes.

**Eileen Devinney:** Sometimes.

**Al Weber:** Doo-de-doo-de-doo-doo-de-doo (humming). Is it there now?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Are we -- can you hear us?

**Eileen Devinney:** No.

**Janis Kozlowski:** No? Is it the wrong hole, maybe? Did you put that thing in the wrong hole?

**Eileen Devinney:** No. Keep talking.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay, we're gonna keep talking and test it out.

**Al Weber:** (Sings) I'll keep talking, I'll keep talking.....

**Eileen Devinney:** Okay. You're good.

**Janis Kozlowski:** It that better?

**Eileen Devinney:** Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay. Okay, good.

**Al Weber:** Oh, I hope it's not working. (Laughter)

**Eileen Devinney:** We got a little singing on here.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay, you're good.

**Al Weber:** Okay, now let's go back. Where did we start?

#### **0:04:15.3 Restarting the interview and repeating introductions**

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay, today is July 19, 2012, and my name is Janis Kozlowski with the National Park Service and we're at the Pioneer Home in Fairbanks, and we're speaking with Al Weber. And Eileen Devinney is also here behind the camera. So, Mr. Weber, what.....

**Al Weber:** Okay.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did you grow up in Alaska?

**Al Weber:** Negatory.

**Janis Kozlowski:** You didn't. Where did you grow up?

**Al Weber:** Jersey City, New Jersey.

**Janis Kozlowski:** When did you -- how did you end up in Alaska, then?

**0:04:46.8 Journey to Alaska**

**Al Weber:** Well, I went in the Coast Guard in 1935, did my time and I wanted to come to Alaska; wanted onto the ice breaker. I decided I would do that when I shipped over. As it happened, I didn't ship over. So, it took a couple of years. I got married, had a couple of kids, raised one and whelped two. Then after the war was over, well, I made it up here.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So you stayed in -- did you stay in Jersey City then, where you got married and raised your kids?

**Al Weber:** No, that happened in California.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, okay.

**Al Weber:** This was a real live California girl. (Laughter) So, yeah. And we came up right after the war. In fact, this was when I finished my last job that was in California; Reseda, California, for a government agency. And we piled the kids in the car, three kids and a wife, and we headed north. 'Cause I was coming up here one way or another. So we did.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So you were --

**Al Weber:** Huh?

**Janis Kozlowski:** So you were really drawn to Alaska.

**0:06:22.1 Mr. Weber arrives in Alaska with his family**

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. I wanted up here. And so, in '47 -- let's see, that was '46 and '47 -- I was in Seattle, found a job in Alaska, and said Carol! And she said Okay! And I grabbed an airplane and she closed up the house and sold everything we had -- it wasn't much -- but she came up. We were in Juneau at that time. And from Juneau, I went into Anchorage after a little bit. What I really found out was that the job that I had -- what it really amounted to -- was going bankrupt. (Laughter) It was a radio supply house and they were in more trouble than I was, so I jumped from the frying pan into the fire.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So.....

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** The -- the radio place that you signed on with was in Juneau initially?

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** And then they had stores.....

#### **0:07:44.9 Travels and jobs in Alaska**

**Al Weber:** They had one in Sea -- in Anchorage, too, so I transferred up there with them, and when I finally found out what was happening, well, I packed up again, and we climbed on the Alaska railroad and went to Seward, where I set up a radio shop there. Set up a radio shop, drove cab, fixed all the mobile gear around town. There was airplane stuff and mobile what-have-you and -- you know, just one of these typical one-guy shops, where I was everything, president and floor sweeper. Even had to pay for the place. (Laughter) But it was okay. Wasn't anything wrong, but we were there for a few years and a friend of mine had a -- oh, yeah, that's right; I had bought out the photo studio, too. And we were doing all the photo work at that time.

**Janis Kozlowski:** In Seward?

**Al Weber:** In Seward, yeah. And after a few years, I wound up back up in Anchorage. Wait a minute, Palmer first, yeah, that's right. Palmer. And again, set up the studio and the radio shop and --'course, while in Seward -- backing up -- I also ran the power plant. And also the power equipment for a cement loading operation. Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, you were kind of a jack-of-all-trades.

**Al Weber:** Yeah. Yeah, if it had a paycheck tied to it, I worked there.

**Janis Kozlowski:** But what.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, I owned Seward too, by the way.

**Janis Kozlowski:** What? (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** Anything to bring in a buck.

#### **0:09:56.5 Joining the Coast Guard and using radio skills**

**Janis Kozlowski:** What did you -- what would you say your skills really are that you were trying to use? Is it electronics? Photography?

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, basically. I started out as a kid trying to figure out radios, about 10 -- Whew! -- about 10 years old. And the only reason I ever got into the Coast Guard was: Item 1) I was 18 years old, five feet nine, and weighed 117 pounds. Yeah. I was a Depression kid. We didn't eat much. Ya hungry? Take a drink of water. I heard that so much that I can even pronounce it Jersey style. (Laughter) In fact, I have a hard time not. But at any rate, where were we? Well, we went back to Jersey, which was not -- it was not a very nice childhood back there and I wasn't about to go back to

Jersey. That was my idea when I left. And my father -- I'll call him that -- last thing he said was, If you get tattooed, don't come back.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Uh-oh! So, that was it for you! (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** Took a picture and sent it to him. At any rate, you know how that goes. How'd we get on that subject? You're pretty good squeezer (laughter). Okay. Where were we?

**Janis Kozlowski:** What -- so you were interested in radios.....

**Al Weber:** Right. Been needing one.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** .....since you were a little.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. How I got in the Coast Guard -- well, I was too light. They didn't want me.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**Al Weber:** But I was still writing my thing and the guy said -- First Class Boatswain's Mate -- he said, is there anything else you do? And I said, no. I hadn't put anything down about radio. Brilliance. Well, he said, well, do you have any hobbies? And I said, hobbies? What's that? I was stupid. (Laughter) But at any rate, Anything else you do? And I said, well, I can take about five words a minute at code, which I think was a lie, but I don't know, but I did know the code and had worked at it and so forth. And everything changed. Suddenly, they wanted me badly! So, uh, he said, Okay, well, come back in a couple of days -- whenever that was. It must have been toward the end of April. No, *too-too-too-too (makes boat whistle sound while thinking)* we were in the end of March, somewhere in that period, at any rate. And so I went back and he said, yeah, we'd like to have you so we'll have to go through the stuff again. So, he said, get on the scale. I stripped down and got on the scale. I was still 117 pounds. And he said, I'll tell you what. It's just before noon. Get your clothes on and go out and have lunch out along -- it was South Ferry in New York, and there were people out there selling apples, bananas, this, that and the other. He said, eat as many -- oh, yeah, he gave me two bucks (Laughter) -- Go out there and eat as many bananas and drink as much water as you can, and don't go to the can, and come on back right at one o'clock. So, I did. I had made my weight. (Laughter) And so I got in.

**Janis Kozlowski:** That's funny.

**Al Weber:** 'Course, that bounced at me a week later, when they sent me to New London, Connecticut, and they weighed me there. I was back to 117 pounds. (Laughter) But they kept me. That's 'bout the whole thing. Not a whole bunch, but I thought it was kind of funny years later when I got to thinking about it. (Laughter) But on my discharge is even the fact that I was underweight when I came in and probably due to recent malnutrition or something, which wasn't the case. That was me!

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**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah.

**Al Weber:** You know. Okay. How'd we get on that subject? (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah.

**Al Weber:** Okay.

#### **0:15:38.1 Description of Coast Guard ships**

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, when you got to New London, that's where they launch the ships and subs, right? From? And is that where you picked up your Coast Guard ship?

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Which one were you on?

**Al Weber:** The first one. Well, on that I was a base four. I was riding little fellers. Vessels that -- most of them had been captured from the rum-runners. They didn't have any money. Well, they had the six bidders and the 78 footers, but they wouldn't go over 10 knots. And everybody else would go 30, so it was a case of playing things sneaky, doing things that maybe we shouldn't and the -- like hitching on a buoy at night when we hear somebody coming in and just staying there when he comes in looking for the buoy. That's the way we got 'em. (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, if you don't have speed, you have to have something else, right? Cunning.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, it worked. Yeah, we had -- the crews were good. They were great. A lot of them were ex-rum-runners. (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** They're probably some real characters.

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah, yeah. They were characters, but good seamen. They were excellent shipmates, those....

#### **0:10:07.7 Sailing on the *Roger B. Taney* to Honolulu**

**Janis Kozlowski:** So what was your -- the primary purpose of your missions there?

**Al Weber:** Well, today it would be pot. We were -- well, actually, our duty had no military value for what was military. But we worked for the Treasury Department, who said, you can't bring that stuff in here because it's not being taxed. Simple. But there were a lot of kinda nasty characters hanging around and pushing the stuff, so there was plenty still going. But, when I left there, I went on one of the bigger ships, a 165 footer, down in Staten Island, and I stayed on that for a little while, until berth came up. And the biggest thing they were building -- the 352 feet, I guess, or something like that -- *Roger*

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*B. Taney*, which about five years ago, the aging *Roger B. Taney*, they retire it. I was on the first crew on the *Roger*. I took it to Honolulu and by then, I was so sick and tired of big ships where they had movies on the fan tail every night and people running all over -- I mean stumbling over 'em all the time. I'd never been with a crew of over 20. And a fellow came up the gangplank -- on that trip, I was a -- yeah, (laughs) brain. Brain lapse. Well, I was up on the bridge. I was just Seaman Striker up there, carrying their coffee cups and stuff of that grade. But I'd been handling the radios while I was in New London and this fellow came up and he looked at my -- and said, you're a radio striker? I said, Yeah. I'm not working at it right now. He said, so am I. I said, well, so are you. What's your ship? He said, oh, I'm on the *Reliance*, out there at the end of the dock. We had pulled in there and right out there at the end Pier 11 in Honolulu was this little 125 foot hunk of pig iron. And I looked at that and he said, you wanna swap? And I said, sure! So I got off of that thing the first day and never got on the *Roger* again.

#### **0:20:10.6 Switching from the *Roger B. Taney* to the *Reliance***

**Janis Kozlowski:** Really? They let you do that?

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah, yeah. All we had to do was give it to the Skippers and they signed the papers and.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** It happened, huh?

**Al Weber:** A couple of days later, uh, he got himself all drunked up and went up in the radio shack there and started slamming things around and wound up in jail (laughs).

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh!

**Al Weber:** But that was my ship from there on, was the *Reliance*, and it was a good berth. And we had a lot of fun.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, you were always a radio man?

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, on the *Reliance* you were also?

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** And where did the *Reliance* -- where were the missions out of?

**Al Weber:** Well, anywhere in the Hawaiian group.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, okay.

**Al Weber:** We had a sister ship in Hilo, but we were based at Honolulu. And the *Tiger* was -- the *Tiger* was the one that was out there when the Japanese hit. And they were the only one of the Coast Guard vessels that ever fired a shot (laughs).....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh!

**Al Weber:** .....up in that thing, they got to fire a few later, but other than that -- but those 125s were a fun vessel, because you got every kind of duty. No matter what, if it happened, we were there. Sometimes we were there *when* it happened. That happened a couple of times, too. Didn't have sense enough to not be in the way! (Laughter) It was a good vessel of our own, good crew.

**Janis Kozlowski:** And you wanted to go to Alaska. I would think maybe at that time, they would want people to go to Alaska, 'cause that wouldn't be a.....

**Al Weber:** They did.

**Janis Kozlowski:** .....highly sought after.....

#### **0:22:03.6 Discharge from the Coast Guard and working for North American**

**Al Weber:** They did, but well, what happened on that one -- I was in -- I had to come back to the States to get discharged. They had to bring you back if you had signed on in the United States anywhere, then they had to bring you back to the mainland. And so I reluctantly went back and a few days I spent in Oakland, what have you. But I went down to San Francisco on the morning of the second -- no, the first of July, yeah, that's what happened -- the first of April, to get discharged. I didn't even realize then, this was after about -- brilliance -- that I signed on on the second of April and I was discharged on the first of April. So, I got my papers and whatnot and he handed me my check. I got a nickel a mile from San Francisco to New York. And all I wanted to do was I wanted to see how much partying I could get in and how long it would be before I was back shipping over. But I was going to ship over for Alaska. It was a hands-down thing. So we got all the paperwork done and I was looking at that check. He was standing there alongside of me and it was the nastiest voice I ever heard out of a guy, and I know now 'cause he was digging me, it was April Fool's Day. But he said, oh, you'll be back, in that kind of a voice. And I looked at him and I said only two words. I took the money and left. The guy that was with me when we got discharged came over from the *Reliance* with me -- he was a California kid, so we went back to the barracks to get my stuff and I went up to George and he said, well, I'm going to L.A. and get a job. And I knew had a car, so I said, you want a passenger? So, we went to L.A. and went to work in the aircraft business. That's when I learned about airplanes.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Which aircraft company? Lockheed?

**Al Weber:** North American.

**Janis Kozlowski:** North American?

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** And what did you do for them?

**Al Weber:** Guess.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Radio work.

**Al Weber:** Of course! What else! (Laughter) Oh, yeah. And so, yeah, we worked on a P-51 for one, right up until the time it flew. Mostly we worked on AT-6's and SNJ's and stuff of that breed, putting in equipment, tearing out equipment, trying to figure out why it wouldn't work, and anything like that. Jack of all trades. They had me down as wire manufacturer or something. They didn't know what to put a radio man in that place. I guess they just picked something and said, that's what you are. Okay. And now, that's what you do.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did you like that kind of work?

**Al Weber:** Oh, sure. It was okay. It was a job.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** Gee, in Jersey City, you could never get a job during the Depression.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

#### **0:25:54.5 Radio business in Jersey City before joining the Coast Guard**

**Al Weber:** And I did find one finally in New York, but that was about the time I was bailing out already. I had a shop up at Jersey City and was fixing radios. Joe Tomolesky yeah, my partner there. I had bought all the equipment and set it up and he came over and he wanted to work on radios, too, so I told him everything I knew and it took about 10 minutes (laughs). So about the time I went in, I said, Joe, do you want a radio shop? And he said, sure. Pay the rent, goodbye. And that was about it. Five dollars a month we paid for that storefront.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Wow.

**Al Weber:** .....it was a good -- nice, good storefront. Had been a clothing store or something before the Depression took it. At any rate, I never heard from Joe anymore, he never heard from me, and that was about the way it was.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Went your separate ways.

**Al Weber:** Yep. We divorced. (Laughter) If you want it put it that way. Yeah, in fact, I hadn't even thought about it. I just walked in; he didn't even know I was going in the service. Well, I didn't either, of course. I was pretty iffy. I had a friend who was an ex-

Marine and he sort of bolstered me for all this, you know. He knew I was hunting jobs and he said -- well. I had tried -- yeah -- for the Army. I'd tried for the Navy. I didn't bother trying for the Marines. I knew what that would be. But he said, well, have you tried the Coast Guard? And I said, no, where are they? What are they? I didn't have a clue.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, it sounds like you landed in the right place; they needed your skills. Actually.....

**Al Weber:** I didn't have many skills, but, yeah, I knew what a radio was. (Laughter) I knew how to pull a tube out of a socket. When I looked at it and if it didn't light up, that was a clue (Laughter). 'Bout the best of it.

**Janis Kozlowski:** And so the difference was working on aircraft that you were in a smaller space doing it?

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Climbing up under.....

**Al Weber:** And it was all the same type of radios and -- yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So what -- how come you left the aircraft industry?

#### **0:28:30.4 Working for the railroad in Bakersfield**

**Al Weber:** Oh, by then I was married. I got married in 1940. See, I got out in '38 and I didn't take very long -- by the way, I met my wife on the way down to L.A. So..... (laughs).....she was in Bakersfield. We stopped in Bakersfield to see an old girlfriend of George's and this was his old girlfriend's girlfriend. Got that? Yeah. And I wound up with her, one way or another. That's another horse -- but at any rate. Now what was your question?

**Janis Kozlowski:** How come you left the aircraft industry?

**Al Weber:** Oh, that. Well, everybody but -- most of us -- knew the war was on its way. And Ray Peterson -- Ray Peterson? Yeah, it was Ray -- who was the prez, got up one day and said, We can't keep up with you fellows. We don't have any more orders, and so we're gonna have to start laying people off. Well, I didn't like the sound of that. At that time, Carol had a house in Bakersfield and we moved down there. It had been rented, but they'd moved out, so we piled -- we only had the two kids then -- we piled them into the car and headed for Bakersfield and I went to work for the railroad. I didn't get on to any radios. They didn't have any radios there in the railroad, but they had an electrical shop and so I went working on engines and putting electric equipment on steam engines in Bakersfield. You've never been on top of a steam engine when the temperature outside is 110 and you're in a roundhouse. If you've never tried that, you ought to. It's interesting.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Must've felt like a French fry in there. (laughs)

#### **0.31:04.8 Working for the Air Force and training pilots**

**Al Weber:** Almost. Almost. The feet didn't sizzle, but -- yeah, it was work. So, then came the war and I was still doing that. One day, somebody came over and said, hey, they're moving a group into Mather Field -- which was about 15 miles to the north on the highway -- and they're looking for radio people. And I went, they are? Oh, here me again. I went down to the boss and I said, hey, I'm thinking of changing jobs, and he said, you can't; you're frozen here. I said, oh? So I went out to Mather Field, made some arrangements, came back and handed him my keys and said, sayonara. And he said, I'll get you; good, go. (laughs) He couldn't do anything because I was going in with the Air Force. So I went to work for the Air Force. I was teaching pilots radio and code, communications, weather. They didn't have many instructors at that time, so they needed meteorology. So, I said, I don't know anything about meteorology, but we're in the same group there in the ground school. So I sat down and read about meteorology and -- poor devils, I hope they didn't get in trouble -- I wasn't very good, but I knew a little bit about weather. I'd been into it before and that's how come they -- and so, that was my job for the first couple of years of the war.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Was that in Bakersfield?

**Al Weber:** Out of Bakersfield, yeah. Mather Field. And yeah, we had -- they were mostly big guys. They were destined to be bomber pilots.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

#### **0.33:37.6 Going to work for the CIA and OSS**

**Al Weber:** Although, at that time, they were flying AT-6s and BT-13s and stuff of that breed. But, here it was little old me teaching core code and communications and weather until they got a real live meteorologist, and boy, I liked that. 'Cause I was having to take this lesson book and read, read, read, read, read and find out what this was all about, see if I could learn everything and then go talk to them. (Laughter) But, at any rate, I lasted there until the military, the Army Air Corps, they found that they had enough officer personnel. We were taking the officers' positions there, and they started offering us a chance to go to Officers Candidate School. Well, I knew how long I'd last there, so I said, no, thank you! I got separated from that and I went back down to L.A. and I was going to go with the CIA and Carolyn decided -- she was a good little radio operator, we worked that one out, so we would both go in as -- I had this Alaska bug in my head, no matter what. I was getting frustrated anyway. I said, well, why don't we go into the CIA and go to Alaska? And so, she agreed and we both went down to the school, the CIA school in Santa Monica. And we were just about through with it and of course, we had the agreement that we would go to the same station. We went in to talk, and this fellow that was running the place -- we yakked for a little bit, and I said, well, where are you gonna send us? And he said, what do you mean, us? We don't guarantee you and your wife are going to the same station.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** So I stood up and said, well, if we're not going to the same station, we're out of here. He said, you can't; you're frozen. I got that again. I said, okay, and so I went down to my car and all of his gear was in my car. I went down and packed it all up, brought it up and he was in there. I just walked in. He was talking to somebody, and I laid the stuff on the desk, a whole box, and said, goodbye. He said, you can't do that. I said, I've done it. (laughs) So then, what to do? So I went to work in a radio shop, of course, right down on Santa Monica Boulevard. So, I was working down there and plotting. I held a first class ticket, which were not very -- they weren't floating around like peanuts, so I knew I could get a ship. So I got Carol set up and whatnot so that she didn't have to worry -- got a place up on the hill, and put her there and -- (laughs) but before I ever did that, I got a phone call. No, I had to go down and renew my license, that's what started it. And I went down to the FCC to renew my license, because it was about to expire and I knew -- well, I didn't want it to expire while I was at sea. I had a ship all set and everything all ready. And I went down to the CIA in downtown L.A. and told -- I put my stuff on the counter to this lady. She looked at it and said, just a minute. She disappears into the back. When she came out, she said, Mr. What's-his-name wants to speak to you. This was always an automatic thing -- they just sign it out, this is you, and -- what's going on here?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** I walked in there. I had no sooner gotten in the door and he said, where the hell have you been? (Laughter) I said, what do you mean? He said, since you left the CIA office, we haven't been able to find you. And I said, whose we'? He said, none of your business. That's when it got through me that they knew where all the radio operators were.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** And so he said, do you have wheels? I said, yeah. You know where Reseda is? No. So he explained it to me and I said, yeah. And he said, go out there and..... What the heck was the guy's name? Mortimer Smith -- .....see Mortimer Smith. I'm gonna phone him you're on your way. I said, well, what's it about? He said, you'll find out. Well, I wound up in the OSS. It was a company called FBQ Company, Incorporated. We had a branch in Staten Island, New York, and there were two branches that did what we did. And so, I worked there for the rest of the war.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So what did you do? You can talk about it now.

**Al Weber:** I would rather -- uh, I'd rather avoid that subject. It's nothing glamorous or anything, but there are still a lot of people younger than me there that were involved, and -- both here and abroad -- and it's better not said. But what did we do? For the record, we maintained surveillance, radio surveillance.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

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**Al Weber:** .....everywhere in the world.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Was it kind of an exciting or rewarding job?

**Al Weber:** No.

**Janis Kozlowski:** No?

**Al Weber:** Oh, no. No, we just -- we had to find 'em and.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did you feel like you were doing something important for the United States, though?

**Al Weber:** Yeah, we were pretty -- well, the first thing we had to have was a top level clearance, so I knew something was coming.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** So. They even let me -- while my clearance was going through -- they let me keep working at the radio shop.

**Janis Kozlowski:** They must have really needed you.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, they did. Yeah, the fact of it is I ran into a lot of old friends from the Coast Guard (laughs).

**Janis Kozlowski:** They grabbed them too?

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm. Yeah, because where they were and what they were doing wasn't terribly important. They grabbed every first class operator they could, and I was going to go to sea on a first class ticket. They were sending them out on conditional tickets. Can you copy the code? Uh-huh. What's the code? (Laughter) You know, that type of answer -- we had some real doozies for operators, but -- I'd have made money if I'd gone to sea and lived. This was a dang sight more important and yeah, we listened a lot.

**Janis Kozlowski:** This company, was it in Reseda, or.....

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** It was. Okay, so you had to move over there then.

**Al Weber:** Oh, no. No, I lived in the hills.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.



**Al Weber:** Up there where I set Carol up. Oh, it was fine. It was closer than any place else.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** .....so I didn't mind that. So.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** And you -- did you do that through the rest of the war, then?

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Until they -- did they shut down operation after the war or -- or they just.....

**Al Weber:** (Whistles, like gone). (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** And then you took off and did other things.

#### **0.43:10.0 Mr. Weber does odd jobs after the war and heads to Seattle**

**Al Weber:** Well, yeah. I worked a little bit -- I mean I did house wiring and whatever, just to keep us going until we'd get the old car fixed up and the kids in it. By then we had another one, because well, that's the way it works out. And so, three kids in the back of the car, Carol and I, we slept in a tent and we headed for Seattle. Oh no, I actually went to work at Douglas again, that's right.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**Al Weber:** Now, there was another period in there. It didn't happen right immediately. So, I went to work at Douglas and that -- when I told them that I'm bailing out, what are you going to do? I'm headed for Alaska. They said, what are you going to do up there?! (Laughs) I don't know. I hadn't a clue. But, uh, oh, you're not going to like that, you'll be back in six months. Well, I got to Seattle and it took a couple of years before I got -- so, I didn't get up here until '48. So, that was 10 years after I got out of the service, and a whole war in between.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** You realize what we've been doing? (Laughter) When you gonna ask a question? When I shut up, yeah, I know. (Laughter) Okay. Go.

#### **0.44:52.1 Coming to Alaska and working in the radio business**

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, okay. So you went up to -- you came up to Alaska in '48 and.....

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm.

**Janis Kozlowski:** .....you had some jobs in other people's radio shops, but then you.....

**Al Weber:** No, I had one job in a radio shop there.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, okay.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, I was drawing wages there. And Carol closed up the place, sold everything and we had bought a house when we got to Seattle and she couldn't peddle it, so she just closed it up and came up on the steamship. I got to fly in a DC-3.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Ooh, that's nice.

**Al Weber:** .....from Seattle. Oh, that was wonderful, yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Seattle to Juneau.

**Al Weber:** Seattle to Juneau, yeah, with a stop at Metlakatla or whatever it was, overnight. (laughs)

**Janis Kozlowski:** That must have been a pretty expensive fare. Do you remember how much it was?

**Al Weber:** No, but they paid for it.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, they did.

**Al Weber:** They wanted me up enough, they paid for it; I didn't ask the question. It was expensive enough to get the family up on the ship. But it all worked, everybody got there and the rest is history, isn't it? (Laughter) That was the truth.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, you used some of your radio skills, I thought I understood, on some installations in Alaska, is that right?

**Al Weber:** Yeah. We did installations -- I mean I did. I installed them, fixed them, whatever was necessary. Did them on fish boats, tugs, airplanes, cars.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** A whole variety.

**Al Weber:** Yeah. Yeah, I even remember when we put the first radios in Anchorage's police cars.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Really?

**Al Weber:** Uh-huh. They had put them in somewhat before I got there, but one of my jobs was when the patrolmen, when they got in the radio, they'd -- they didn't know how, really, to use it. They either got, yeah, okay, or they'd go oh, no (Mr. Weber makes muffled words to demonstrate, Laughter) And so they would complain about crazy things and there was this one particular time I had to ride in the back -- in the trunk -- of the

police car, so I could watch what he did whenever it was. So, I couldn't hear what was coming in on his receiver and I'd see how long it took 'em to get the button pushed, because what they'd do, they'd pick it up and start talking and be talking all the way to it. When I finally could get some -- idiots.

**Janis Kozlowski:** They were a tough bunch to train, huh? (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** Oh, God. Yeah. (laughs) That was just one job, I mean, yeah. I came -- I got up in Fairbanks. I didn't get here until '57, I guess, '58, something like that. When Carol and I split.....

#### **0.48:29.9 Moving to Fairbanks**

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. Even that happened. (Laughter) She was a California girl and I was a Jersey kid. She'd been around the Horn a couple of times and I hadn't; what'd you expect?

**Eileen Devinney:** Did she stay up here, or did she.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. She stayed, but oh, she hated Alaska for some reason or another. So she went back to California after the flood that was in '67. By then -- that's even another series, but we can avoid those (Laughter). Some humorous parts in that one, too. But, at any rate, so here I am. I never figured I'd be here.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, here in the Pioneer Home?

#### **0.49:28.8 Living in the Pioneer Home and playing music**

**Al Weber:** Here in the Pioneer Home. No, I was playing here for five, six, ten years, I don't remember. We'd been doing a music thing here on Wednesdays, like it was yesterday.

**Janis Kozlowski:** What kind of music do you play? The washboard?

**Al Weber:** I play the washboard, too. Autoharps, ukulele, guitar, Bodhran. A few other -- oh, harmonica, yeah, that's right. We do harmonica. Look around, there's fourteen harmonicas in sight.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did I see you last night playing?

**Al Weber:** Well, I went in there. That's my group. I didn't know. I didn't know they were coming in. They generally practice on Wednesday nights, but Wednesday is my big day here and so I told them I wasn't going be around for the practice and I didn't even think they were gonna come. Yeah, that's my group.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Okay.

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**Al Weber:** So, I still play with them, but I'm getting old enough that I'd rather they get somebody that's gonna be around a little longer. (Laughter) That's about it. So, I guess -- I've got a cutoff date at 107. (Laughter) That's a good number.

**0:50:56.5 Living to 107 years old**

**Janis Kozlowski:** It is a good number. How old are you now?

**Al Weber:** Ninety-five.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Ninety-five. You don't look like you're ninety-five.

**Al Weber:** I don't?

**Janis Kozlowski:** You don't seem like you're ninety-five.

**Eileen Devinney:** No.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, I am.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So I'm pretty sure 107 is achievable. (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** Well, I'm liable to run under a freight train or something. (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** You been out walking on the tracks?

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah, always (Laughter) I balance on them. That's something I never could do. As a kid, all the kids could walk on that thing; I never could. Didn't realize I've got a bad eye here. Nobody ever knew that. It may be looking at you, but it's gonna look like it's looking over there if I don't watch it (laughs).

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh. Must not have harmed you or hindered you too much during the years. It didn't bother you too much.

**Al Weber:** Didn't bother me, no. I flew and what not -- nobody ever argued it.

**0:51:49.5 Types of airplanes Mr. Weber piloted**

**Janis Kozlowski:** You flew? Were you a pilot?

**Al Weber:** Right.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Are you a pilot?

**Al Weber:** I am, yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, I didn't -- you never said anything about that.

**Al Weber:** Oh, that's just another one of those things.

**Janis Kozlowski:** When did you get your license?

**Al Weber:** Right here.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, you did? When you moved to.....

**Al Weber:** In Fairbanks, yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** .....Fairbanks? What kind of planes did you fly?

**Al Weber:** Well, mostly PA-18's and a little Cess -- yeah, a Cessna 140?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, 140 A. But I've flown a lot of other kinds, too, but I mean that's what I had more access to.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did -- was it for a job or personal?

**Al Weber:** Yeah. (Laughter) Uh, yeah, I used it for going back and forth for the bush towns and whatnot to work. It was handy.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** And my wife -- she -- the gal that I married after, she was a geologist and also a radio operator. That's where I'd first run into her. And.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** So when you moved to Fairbanks, you set up another shop, a radio shop here?

**Al Weber:** No, I didn't have to.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

#### **0:53:14.2 Moving back to Fairbanks after divorce**

**Al Weber:** Although, in effect I did, because my house was always full of the dang stuff people would bring in, but no, I didn't officially, no. I -- right in the beginning, now what the heck did I do? I can't recall right now. Oh! That's -- yeah! I came out of Anchorage. Carol and I had moved back to Anchorage when things started going to pieces and after I took her over to her new digs, I decided I wanted to leave. So a friend of mine -- one of the hands -- was a chief operator for a radio station down there and I knew he had a station up here, so I said, hey, any job up in Fairbanks? He says, as a matter of fact, yeah. Well, I was chief engineer for KFRB for a couple of years.

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**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**0:54:27.9 Working on the Gilmore Creek satellite tracking station**

**Al Weber:** When I came up -- my daughter and I came up -- my son stayed with his mama, and we just split the sheets. And -- well, there was a fellow up at the University who was a brilliant man. Bob Merritt. I don't know if you've ever -- he's dead now, but one morning, Bob came into the station and he said, I need a hand up at the University. And I said, well, what are we gonna do? Yeah, I'm game to change. He said, we're going to build a tracking station. I said, what's a tracking station? So he explained it to me. So I went to work for the Geophysical Institute and we put together Gilmore Creek, which was all -- a whole bunch of boxes, pieces. And so we built Gilmore Creek and got a few more people and waited for the day that we could catch a bird and the Canadian satellite came along. We got it all set up, which meant the end of our job, and turned it over to the contractor. That was at RCA.

**Janis Kozlowski:** I don't understand what Gilmore Creek was?

**Al Weber:** Pretty much what it is today. Pretty much. It's a -- it was a tracking station. The satellites were going up all over the world and they needed a satellite tracking site here.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh.

**Al Weber:** So there were a whole bunch of boxes that contained a jillion dollars' worth of top-of-the-line radio equipment; stuff that had never been used before. And this stuff was built on engineering plans; even the dish was just pieces of metal in boxes that came in there. A 60-foot dish, that was our big one. And so we got it all together.

**Eileen Devinney:** I'm gonna.....

**Al Weber:** Then one day, we had everybody -- whoops! What'd I do? Run you out of film?

**Eileen Devinney:** Oh, you know. It happens.

**Al Weber:** Film. (Laughs) Holy cow! We've been talking a long time.

**Eileen Devinney:** Um-hm. See, you have nothing to say.

**Al Weber:** And you haven't said two words. (Laughter) Either one of ya. That, uh.....

**Eileen Devinney:** Okay.

**0:57:44.2 Teaching radio in the engineering department at the University**

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**Al Weber:** Okay. Gilmore Creek, yeah. So, at any rate, we -- there were a lot, of course, in the couple of years -- I don't even know how long I was there -- then I went back to work at the University and about at that time, they were putting together the first of the MDTA courses in radio back in the engineering department and so I wound up teaching there for seven or eight years. When I finally -- it finally dawned on me that what we were teaching these kids, putting them through two years of grind -- they would come out unemployable. And also, so was I! Radio, as we knew it, was gone.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** Didn't hurt 'em any, because they all got jobs because nobody knew that we didn't know anything. So, we had to start all over. Silly little stuff like you guys are using, where you don't have to know anything. If it doesn't work, you throw it away and go buy a new one instead of fixing everything. We fixed equipment right down to the itty bittiest part. And if we didn't have the part, we had to make it. Now, we couldn't make it. I can't even find it, let alone fix it!

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah. Do you think that was a good change?

#### **0.59:27.8 Changes in technology**

**Al Weber:** Oh, absolutely, yeah. Uh, you guys wouldn't even have jobs. We would have still been having jobs, if it hadn't changed.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** But it -- technology has to change. And are we at the top of the technological pile now? What you know as equipment is going to go away in two years.

**Eileen Devinney:** As soon as you buy it.....

**Al Weber:** You'd better keep learning.....

**Eileen Devinney:** .....it's obsolete.

**Al Weber:** .....whatever is the next thing coming. Don't do like we did. That war came along and it put us to sleep, because everything -- we had stuff, but it was not on the line yet. And so the war came, everything went into the war effort, which was last year's junk. And oh, yeah; it was an awful shock. At 50 years old, I suddenly decided, I don't have a job! So, there you go, it was some -- but that can happen to you.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** .....so dang fast. Don't turn your nose up at technology, it's where you're gonna eat. What it's gonna be, I haven't a clue. I didn't have any clue about this either. A person who fixed things, fixed things. You know, going to -- from here on, it's going to get smaller. It's gonna be implants.

**Janis Kozlowski:** I'll just be looking at you and I'll be videotaping you.

**Al Weber:** Huh? (Laughter)

**Eileen Devinney:** Film would be in your glasses.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Have a little camera right here.

**Al Weber:** Oh! (Laughter) Right! Yeah, oh.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Someday.

**Al Weber:** Absolutely. Even before the war, we were working on miniature stuff. I was down to a camera 'bout so big. It was -- the film was a piece of film about the size of a 50 cent piece, and I had 12 exposures on it.

#### **0.62:00.8 Working as a photographer**

**Janis Kozlowski:** Wow.

**Al Weber:** Black and white; there wasn't any color yet. Well, it was color but it was pretty primitive. Yeah, I was a photographer in between, I mean all the time. I got a house full of old photographic equipment, you know, thousand, two thousand dollar cameras, with glass on them that -- ooh, beautiful stuff. What do I do with 'em?

**Eileen Devinney:** When you had the studio, did you do portraits, or.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. Well, yeah, I did everything. I did commercial photography, took wedding pictures, name it. I shot little kids. Mommy would bring them in and try to keep them busy while I shot 'em. (laughs) Oh, yeah. I've been -- had a few things. I can also turn a mean hamburger. (Laughter)

**Eileen Devinney:** That's a really good skill to have.

**Janis Kozlowski:** It is.

**Al Weber:** Yep, if I have to, I could go to work, maybe.....

**Eileen Devinney:** As a short order cook?

**Al Weber:** Hmm?

**Eileen Devinney:** As a short order cook?

#### **0.63:28.9 Short stint as a short order cook**



**Al Weber:** Yeah, oh yeah, yeah. I could do that. I've done that a little bit. In fact, a business one time going down stateside -- I was driving down in my truck and came into a place in Canada. At any rate, I went in and there was this little gal, she had a house full of people. Everybody was in there, it was in the morning. And I looked over at -- she finally came up and asked me what I wanted and I said, are you short of help? And she said, oh, God, yes. Cook got drunk and left. So I said, move over. And so I spent two days there, cooking for her and getting her straightened out and she finally got somebody in. (laughs) Yeah, I can short order cook. I didn't say I was good at it. (Laughter) But I guess I could even make it -- nah, I don't move fast enough anymore to make it at McDonald's.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah, and they have a clock up there, timing you, there.

**Al Weber:** They do?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, I'd get my first paycheck as I walked out the door. (Laughter) Okay. So, I don't know -- where were we? We got off on another subject here, I think.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So do you still keep up on your radio and photography here?

#### **0.65:02.4 Continued interest in radios**

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah, yeah. Fact is, right behind her is a Citizen.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, yeah. Oh, look at that.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, right there.

**Janis Kozlowski:** What do you do?

**Al Weber:** Oh.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Do you talk to people on it or.....

**Al Weber:** Yeah. If I want to. Fact of it is, in this drawer is our international radio system I just pulled down, which was in my window here. And we're in the business of putting new antennas and stuff up. Yeah, we had -- this place was set up if internet and all the phones went out, we still had worldwide communications right here.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh!

**Eileen Devinney:** I like your antenna setup through the fence.....

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm. Yep. They look a bit ratty right now, because they're not quite in -- well, they're in commission, I could use 'em, but it's not set up the way I want yet.

**Eileen Devinney:** Did you do Ham?

**Al Weber:** Hmm?

**Eileen Devinney:** Did you do Ham radio things?

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah. Yeah, well, that was in '35. Prior to that, I was a radio nut and couldn't -- wasn't licensable. I finally got my ticket in '35, so, good.

#### **0.66:16.8 Closing the interview**

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, it's almost your lunchtime, and we're -- we can't interfere with that.

**Al Weber:** No, you better go get some lunch, too. (Laughter) Yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Do you have any questions that I missed?

**Eileen Devinney:** I don't think so.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did we miss some -- anything?

**Al Weber:** The rest of the story, if there is one, I don't know. (Laughter) I didn't even know you were gonna talk two hours or an hour and a half.

**Eileen Devinney:** It was an hour.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Sorry, I get -- I'm interested in people's stories and I have a hard time cutting them off. (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** Well, if I find somebody, I'll let you know. (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, thank you very much for talking with us today.

**Al Weber:** Well, thank you for coming. (laughs) I mean, you had me scratching where I'd forgotten. Probably a good thing. So.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** Thank you.

**Al Weber:** Well, thank you. What was your name?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Janis.

**Al Weber:** Janis. And?

**Eileen Devinney:** Eileen.

**Al Weber:** Eileen. Hi, both of you. I'll forget it in 10 minutes.

**Janis Kozlowski:** That's okay.

**Eileen Devinney:** That's okay.

**Al Weber:** So, okay, well.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** You know, you have our calendar up -- that's our calendar from the Aleutian World War II Era.

**Al Weber:** Oh, yeah! Bob gave me that.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, did he?

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

**Eileen Devinney:** Yeah.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, that's a nice calendar.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, good, I.....

**Al Weber:** Did you guys do that?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** No kidding?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Um-hmm.

**Al Weber:** Whoo! That was quite a job!

**Janis Kozlowski:** We've been doing them since 2006.

**Al Weber:** Egad! How'd I come to miss 'em?

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well.....

**Al Weber:** Well, there you go.

**Janis Kozlowski:** We were trying to.....

**Al Weber:** I wasn't anywhere where there was one. (Laughter) Yeah, that's a real nice calendar. Of course, we read it all the way through first.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, good. That's what we were hoping.

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

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**Janis Kozlowski:** It's not a great calendar, per se.

**Al Weber:** I know. It's real hard to see it. That's why I like that -- what my granddaughter made.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah. You have to have a real one. Yeah.

**Al Weber:** Yeah. But it's very nice and right there, it serves the purpose. And yeah, I knew those airplanes, too.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Did you?

**Al Weber:** Oh, yes. We had the wings.....

**Janis Kozlowski:** See now, we're missing another big story here.

**Eileen Devinney:** I know. That's.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, my God. (Laughter)

**Janis Kozlowski:** Turn the camera back on! Let me.....let us get our stuff broken down so we won't interrupt your lunch here.

**Al Weber:** Oh, well. I don't know what there is -- much. Now my knees don't work.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, I have something I wanted to give you, too. Hold on.

**Al Weber:** Me? Ooh. I think today's Thursday?

**Eileen Devinney:** That's right.

**Al Weber:** Stuffed peppers with yellow squash and cornbread.

**Eileen Devinney:** What a combo.

**Al Weber:** Um-hmm, yeah. Okay. Oh, and cowboy's cookies.

**Eileen Devinney:** What is that? Cowboy's.....

**Al Weber:** I'm afraid to think.

**Eileen Devinney:** I don't think of cowboys as big cookie eaters. (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** No. Oh, this is your stuff.

**Eileen Devinney:** Yeah.

**Al Weber:** Okay.

**Eileen Devinney:** At least if the cameras not there, you can actually get out of your room. (Laughter)

**Al Weber:** Yeah.

**Eileen Devinney:** We have so much stuff.

**Al Weber:** Yeah, well, always. But you should have seen what it would look like.....

**Eileen Devinney:** I was just gonna say that, what it would have been before -- this is compact and.....

**Al Weber:** Yeah. Film cans about like these is what we packed.

**Eileen Devinney:** No kidding. Yeah, I used to work in a photo archive.

**Al Weber:** Oh, you did.

**Eileen Devinney:** Yeah, at a museum.

**Al Weber:** You did? You are not that old.

**Eileen Devinney:** Well, I was just the archivist, so there was footage.....

**Al Weber:** Oh, oh, okay.

**Eileen Devinney:** Yeah, it was from a museum and so a lot of it was old expedition footage and things like that.

**Al Weber:** Well, you know, I always wanted to be -- we did a lot of -- our equipment was film when I was working for the geo phys. And.....

*End of interview at 1:10:04.1*