

*The
Kerr County Historical Commission
presents*

An ORAL HISTORY

Of

*KAREN KLEIN
AND
CLARK KLEIN*

Kerrville, Texas 2016

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interviewee: KAREN KLEIN
 CLARK KLEIN

Interviewers: Francelle Robison Collins
 Bonnie Pipes Flory

Date: November 16, 2016

Place: Kerr County Courthouse
 Kerrville, Texas

*The Oral History Project is a project of
The Kerr County Historical Commission,
a volunteer organization. Oral History
Committee chair is Francelle Robison Collins.*

Transcribed and Edited by Justin Kreager and Dr. Seabrook Jones

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Name: KAREN MARGARET HERZOG KLEIN

Date of Birth: September 27, 1943

Place of Birth: Kerrville, Texas

Education: Notre Dame School
Tivy High School
Durham Business College

Father: Oswald Aaron Herzog, Jr

Mother: Catherine Whelan

Spouse: Clark Klein

Sibling: Oswald Aaron Herzog III, Hugh Nathan Herzog

Children: Clark "Chuck" Dennis Klein, Jr, Chris Klein
Pankratz, Kevin Klein

Kerr County Historical Commission

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Name: CLARK DENNIS KLEIN

Date of Birth: January 19, 1938

Place of Birth: Kerrville, Texas

Education: Notre Dame School
Tivy High School

Father: Walter Joseph Klein

Mother: Mina "Minnie" Leyendecker

Spouse: Karen Klein

Siblings: Barbara Klein, Marilyn Klein, Yolanda Klein

Married: March 3, 1962

SUMMARY

Karen Margaret Herzog Klein was born in Kerrville, Texas in 1943. She has lived in various places with her family throughout her life before finally settling down in Kerrville. Her father was a skilled carpenter who at one point even built one of the Herzog family homes, and her mother had a notable fondness for music. Karen grew up and went to school in Kerrville. She first attended Notre Dame School for eight years before attending Tivy High School as a freshman. It was during this time at Tivy in which she met her future husband Clark Klein. After graduating from high school, she went to Durham Business College, completing her courses in just seven months. Following this she spent three months working at the Wool and Mohair Warehouse in Ingram before marrying Clark on March 3, 1962. After this, Karen and Clark moved to San Antonio, Texas and lived there for six months while Clark worked as a mail carrier. After this, Karen and Clark moved to Austin, Texas and lived there for ten years. They had three children during this time. They eventually moved back to Kerrville with said children in the wake of complications resulting from desegregation and the related busing rules.

Clark Dennis Klein was born in Kerrville, Texas in 1938. His father and uncle were the owners of a Kerrville-based laundry establishment. Like Karen, he also went to Notre Dame and later graduated from Tivy. Shortly after his high school graduation he enlisted in the United States Army for three years, during which time he spent 18 months on a deployment to West Germany. After the conclusion of his Army service he spent a brief period continuing to work in the postal service before enlisting again, this time into the National Guard. He served in the National Guard until 1982, achieving the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

An Oral History of
KAREN and CLARK KLEIN

My name is Francelle Robison Collins and I am with the Kerr County Historical Commission, Oral History Project. Today is November 16, 2016, and I am here at the Kerr County Courthouse in Kerrville, Texas, with Bonnie Flory. We are talking with Karen and Clark Klein, who understand that we are making audio and video recordings of this interview and that a typewritten transcript of this interview will be provided so that changes can be made. The audio and video tapes, however, cannot be edited. This information along with copies of any family pictures and documents provided by you will then be turned over to the Kerr Regional History Center, Schreiner University, and the University of North Texas' Portals to Texas History, where they will be available to the public unless specific restrictions are placed on them by you. These restrictions will be noted in the Release form after you have had a chance to review your manuscript. Are you clear on what we are doing today?

KAREN: Yes.

FRANCELLE: Karen could you give us your given name, please?

KAREN: My name is Karen Margaret Herzog Klein.

FRANCELLE: Okay. And when and where were you born?

KAREN: Born here in Kerrville, Texas, September 27, 1943.

FRANCELLE: Were you born at home or at a hospital?

KAREN: In a hospital.

FRANCELLE: Do you remember the delivering physician?

KAREN: Dr. William Earl Gregg.

FRANCELLE: What was your mother's name?

KAREN: Catherine Whelan

FRANCELLE: Do you have any siblings?

KAREN: I have two brothers, Aaron Herzog, Oswald Aaron Herzog III, and goes by Aaron, and my younger brother, born when I was thirteen, so I was a built-in babysitter.

FRANCELLE: What was your younger brother's name?

KAREN: Hugh Nathan Herzog

FRANCELLE: And what was your father's name?

KAREN: My father's name was Oswald "Ozzie" Aaron Herzog Jr.

FRANCELLE: So, Ozzie was the nickname?

KAREN: Ozzie was a nickname. He went by Ozzie.

FRANCELLE: And where was he born?

KAREN: He was born, I believe around Houston.

FRANCELLE: Okay.

KAREN: You know, it was probably one of those nurses at home type things.

FRANCELLE: And what was his occupation?

KAREN: He was a bookkeeper for T.J. Moore Lumber Yard for years, years and years, he retired from there.

FRANCELLE: And what brought him to Kerrville?

KAREN: His mom and dad, my grandmother, who was Floydene Kuhlmann Herzog. Her Kuhlmann relatives lived here in Kerrville, and one of her brothers had a florist Shop on Water Street. Two of the houses are still there. There was the grandparent's home, which is now the washeteria; the florist people own the house to the right side. Then there was Valeska Kuhlmann and his wife Delle, and in that house and across the river was Lucy and Bernard Kuhlmann who worked at Charles Schreiner Bank for years

FRANCELLE: You know I remember the Kuhlmanns! Did you know your grandparents?

KAREN: Yes. I lived right next door to Mother's mother and dad, and Dad's mother lived right behind them in Ingram.

FRANCELLE: What can you tell us about your grandparents?

KAREN: My grandfather was a carpenter. His name was James Thomas Whelan and he worked out of Moore's and he built our home, I'm pretty sure, and I know he built the house they lived in, and my grandmother Kate had a wonderful music background because her father was Julian Jerome Charlier, and in fact my grandmother tried to teach me how to play the violin, which was sort of successful but the neighbors I'm sure thoroughly enjoyed my squawking through the neighborhood. And I remember distinctly as a little girl, my grandfather sharpening his saws, you know taking a file and sharpening each tooth on the saw, and I would stand there—

FRANCELLE: For his trade.

KAREN: Yeah. And my grandmother Herzog, she lost her husband during World War II, not because of the War, he was an engineer. He passed away before I was born, and so she was, you know, a widow lady for years. She worked for the American Red Cross here in Kerrville. She was comfortable enough financially that she and a couple of lady friends toured the United States together. She drove, I'm sure. She and I were very close. Of course, I was the oldest grandchild and the only girl, which I'm sure made it special.

FRANCELLE: Did the Kuhlmanns marry the Herzog's?

KAREN: Yes. The Kuhlmanns married the Herzog's.

FRANCELLE: Okay. Just wanted to make sure I had that correct.

KAREN: Correct. Her name was Floydene, but she went by the nickname, which was Sweetheart.

FRANCELLE: Sweetheart?

KAREN: Sweetheart. We called her Grandma Sweetheart.

FRANCELLE: Oh. That's neat!

KAREN: There is a poem written by Judd Mortimer Lewis in 1916. In it there's a picture of my grandmother holding my father. It's one of those real old fashioned, you know, pictures, portraits. Lewis was the Poet Laureate of Texas. I have it in the bedroom hanging on the wall. He knew my grandmother as a small child. The poem is lovely.

FRANCELLE: Oh, is that so? Did you say your great grandparents came from France?

KAREN: Julian Jerome Charlier came from the Alsace-Lorraine area where Cpt. Schreiner came from. I want to tell you a little story. My mother remembers, when she was a little bitty girl- she said she remembers Cpt. Schreiner being driven up in his big black limousine in front of her grandparents' meager little home. Mom said she remembers the car distinctly because it had flower vases in the inside of the car.

FRANCELLE: Wow. Flowers.

KAREN: Live flowers. But she said Cpt. Schreiner would get out of the car and go up on the porch and sit with Grandfather Charlier, and they would speak Alsatian for hours together. Cpt. Schreiner asked grandpa to be the first music director out at Schreiner College- Schreiner Institute at that time. We have pictures of the little band that Grandfather put together. Like I said, I have boxes of music that grandfather wrote. At one point I got them together and wanted to take them out to Schreiner College and would still like to do that.

FRANCELLE: So, this was a band for the school?

KAREN: The band for the school, yes.

FRANCELLE: And they played in different things around town when they had something to do? That's really neat. Give us some endearing qualities of your mother and dad.

KAREN: Dad was a philatelist. He did stamp collecting. When he passed away, I was faced, since I was oldest to, you know, get Dad's stamp collection sort of split up and out of the house. I spent days, hours, and weeks working on this. We had stamp dealers coming in from different areas to go through his collection. I was fortunate enough to be able to sell a lot of it, which helped Mother later.

CLARK: One guy flew in from New York—

FRANCELLE: Wow!

CLARK: And took his China collection and flew back and sold it at a big auction up in New York.

FRANCELLE: My stars! His china collection?

KAREN: Yeah, yeah, he had a collection of Chinese stamps

FRANCELLE: Oh, Chinese stamps

CLARK: He specialized in Oriental things, Chinese and Japanese.

FRANCELLE: Okay.

KAREN: Yeah, which hit the market at the right time, thank Heavens.

FRANCELLE: So how many years do you think he collected stamps?

KAREN: All his life.

CLARK: Since World War II, we know that, because he brought back a bunch of stamps from the Nazi Germany era.

FRANCELLE: My goodness. Did you keep any of them?

KAREN: Yes. I have some, my brother has some, and the grandchildren have some!

FRANCELLE: A lot of the stamps are fixed on letters, I bet.

KAREN: That's true. That's another thing I thought was interesting, and hopefully one of these years I'll have time to do it. I have all the letters that mother and dad exchanged during World War II. So, like mother said my whole baby history is

recorded in these letters

FRANCELLE: Well, sure.

KAREN: I have the box with the letters in them.

CLARK: He collected plate blocks. He always wanted me, since I was assistant postmaster with access to the wholesale accounts. He wanted me to look on them and find the plate blocks as a collector. They have a plate block with a number in each corner, same number. I said, "Ozzie, I can't look through all those stamps!"

FRANCELLE: I don't have time!

KAREN: They're not paying me to do that!

CLARK: I said, "The vault is full of stamps, and I can't possibly do that!"

FRANCELLE: That's cute!

KAREN: Dad had a real cute sense of humor. Mother had a lot of Irish in her. The grandmother, Grandma Charlier, came from Ireland. There was a lot of Irish in her, and Daddy always said she always got the last word in.

FRANCELLE: Did she have an Irish temper?

KAREN: She really did! Yes!

CLARK: Ozzie also had the other postmasters from Ingram and Hunt looking for stamps. He would go up there and rummage through the wastebaskets in the lobbies, pulling out- of course they were used stamps, but he'd see some that he didn't have. They allowed him to do that, pull out whatever he needed.

FRANCELLE: So, he collected new stamps and used stamps?

KAREN: Anything that was a stamp, he was collecting it. Yes.

FRANCELLE: Where did you start school, Karen?

KAREN: I started at Notre Dame, and went the whole eight years. I was lucky enough that I had neighbor girls that were a little older than me, and, of course, Notre Dame finally got a bus, which helped a lot, and I rode that bus a lot. I got tired of riding it.

FRANCELLE: I didn't remember them having a bus.

KAREN: Yeah, they did. It was small, a small little bus.

FRANCELLE: Now was there just in first grade or were the grades combined?

KAREN: No. It was two grades at a time. First and second, third and fourth. Yes.

FRANCELLE: And then you transferred to Tivy?

KAREN: I transferred to Tivy as a freshman after I graduated from Notre Dame.

CLARK: At that time, Ingram only had eight grades.

FRANCELLE: So, you all were living in Ingram?

KAREN: Yes, we lived in Ingram all those years, yes. In fact, Dad used to ride a bicycle down to Moore Lumberyard because we didn't have a car.

FRANCELLE: Oh, goodness!

KAREN: And if we needed a car we borrowed Grandpa and Grandma's car that lived next door to us.

FRANCELLE: So, when did everybody move in to Kerrville?

KAREN: Not till just recently.

FRANCELLE: Oh, is that right?

KAREN: I mean within the last ten years.

FRANCELLE: Oh, okay. And you lived there because Moore's is where your father worked?

KAREN: Right. Yes. That's where Dad worked.

FRANCELLE: And they didn't have a school there in Ingram—

KAREN: Yeah, they did! They did have one in Ingram, but of course I was Catholic so, you know, the folks wanted me to go to Notre Dame.

FRANCELLE: And what year did you graduate from Tivy?

KAREN: 1961.

FRANCELLE: And what were you involved in?

KAREN: I was in Antlerettes, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

FRANCELLE: Miss G?

KAREN: Miss G, yes and I was in the Homemaking Club. I didn't do a whole lot of stuff, but we had a group mostly from Ingram and a couple of the girls from Kerrville. We would, run together, and we had wonderful slumber parties out at the

Leinweber place in Ingram. I, truthfully, I thoroughly enjoyed high school. Then

Clark showed up in my junior year and treated me royally. Because he was out of school, he had a car, he was making money so he could spend it on me. My girlfriends always said I didn't treat him as nicely as I should have.

FRANCELLE: I think he'd probably not agree with that! And then, what did you do after you graduated?

KAREN: After I graduated, that Monday, I think it was, or over the weekend, Clark drove me to Corpus Christi to my aunt and uncle's house, and I went to Durham Business College. I was there for seven months. It was supposed to be a nine month course and I finished it in seven and then moved back home with mom and dad and worked at the Ingram Wool and Mohair warehouse for Dale Priour.

FRANCELLE: Priour?

KAREN: Who's kin to us—?

FRANCELLE: Oh, is that right?

FRANCELLE: I just interviewed Bertha Real Priour

KAREN: Bertha, Oh, yes! But anyway, I worked for Dale for three months, and then Clark and I got married on March 3, 1962, at Notre Dame Church.

FRANCELLE: Did you all continue to live in Ingram?

KAREN: No. Clark and I moved to San Antonio. He was a letter carrier in San Antonio and we lived there about six months.

CLARK: We moved Labor Day.

KAREN: Then we moved to Austin and lived there for ten years.

FRANCELLE: So, you were following the mail route, then?

KAREN: That we were, yes. Clark was working for the post office. That's where our three children were born. Then we got caught up in President Johnson's bussing children all over Austin to integrate the schools. Clark and I decided to move, and he got offered a job at the Kerrville Post Office.

FRANCELLE: Had you all always planned to move back to Kerrville?

KAREN: Well, after we got caught up in the Austin mess. You know, our children's elementary school was not that far down the street. Then they were going to start bussing kids all over the place—

CLARK: From high school.

KAREN: From the high schools. We just decided, No, that's not the way we wanted to do it. We were fortunate to move back to the Hill Country and be with Clark's mom and dad before they passed on. We moved in to my grandparent's home in Ingram, right next door to my mom and dad. I just switched houses. We lived in that house for years.

FRANCELLE: But you weren't with the post office there?

KAREN: No, but it was in Kerrville.

CLARK: We actually started in San Antonio.

KAREN: Well, you can get into that.

FRANCELLE: Well, I'm going to ask you the same thing. Could you give us your given name, Clark?

CLARK: My given name is Clark Dennis Klein. My mother named me after a singer, Clark Dennis. And she said, "He can eat crackers in my bed any day!" That was her favorite saying.

FRANCELLE: Was that one of his songs? You can eat crackers in my bed any day? I think I heard that!

CLARK: Yeah, I think it came from a song. I don't think it was one that—

FRANCELLE: That he did? That's cute! And you were born where and when?

CLARK: In Kerrville, and I think I was delivered by a midwife. I don't think I was born in a hospital on January 19—Robert E. Lee's birthday—1938.

FRANCELLE: Okay, great. And do you have siblings?

CLARK: Yes I do.

FRANCELLE: What are their names?

CLARK: There's Barbara, but she is deceased. Yolanda, who is deceased. She died when she was a junior in high school.

FRANCELLE: Oh my.

CLARK: Yes. Spinal meningitis.

FRANCELLE: Oh, my goodness.

CLARK: Yeah. Barbara, Marilyn, Landy—we called her Landy, her name was Yolanda, but we called her Landy—and no brothers

FRANCELLE: Okay. So, three sisters?

CLARK: Yes, three sisters.

KAREN: We were both spoiled. He was the only boy with three sisters, and I was the only girl with two brothers.

CLARK: But I was a mean little brother, though.

FRANCELLE: Oh, yeah!

CLARK: I picked on them a lot.

FRANCELLE: And what was your mother's name?

CLARK: Mina. Everybody called her Minnie, but it was Mina. Mina Anna, and her maiden name was Leyendecker, L-E-Y-E-N-D-E-C-K-E-R.

FRANCELLE: Good German name. Yes. Were the Leyendeckers from Fredericksburg?

CLARK: Her family, the Leyendeckers, came to Fredericksburg in 1846, and the Klein's came in 1845. They both came from the same little town in Germany, Niederelbert. I guess one of them wrote the other one to tell them how nice it was over here, and the other one followed, but they were some of the first, original settlers in Fredericksburg.

FRANCELLE: And what did your father do? What was his profession?

CLARK: Ah! Well, as far as I can remember he worked for the creamery. Jack and Carl Peterson operated a creamery there on Water Street, and the laundry was right next door. He ended up going over to the laundry, and he worked over at the laundry, and then he and my uncle, his brother-in-law, bought a little laundry called Quality Laundry.

FRANCELLE: Oh! I remember Quality Laundry.

CLARK: And they operated that for a number of years, and then they sold it just before I graduated from high school. And I worked part time for him during the summer and during weekends when he needed it.

FRANCELLE: Who did you say owned Quality then?

CLARK: Well, I don't know who they bought it from. My uncle, Walter Lorenz, and my

dad co-owned it.

FRANCELLE: Okay. Yeah, I didn't know who started the laundry but I remember Quality Laundry. And your mother's name was Minnie, and did she work outside of the house?

CLARK: I can't recall her ever working—

FRANCELLE: Well, she was busy with those kids.

CLARK: Yeah

KAREN: She was a wonderful German cook.

CLARK: My dad provided enough money to keep us going without her having to work. I remember one week he'd come home and he'd say, "Well, Minnie, this week we're going to eat beans and pork ribs, because we had to pay all the employees." He said the employees come first.

FRANCELLE: Oh, that was nice! And did you know your grandparents?

CLARK: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

FRANCELLE: On both sides?

CLARK: They all had nicknames. There were nine brothers and sisters—

KAREN: Of your grandparents?

CLARK: Of my grandparents. Of course, the first one died when she was an infant, but the other eight survived all their lives. Most of them were here in Kerrville. Only one moved to San Antonio. But they all had nicknames, like Elmer was Elmo. My dad was Walter Joseph, but everybody called him Shot.

FRANCELLE: I remember that name.

CLARK: My mother nicknamed him Shot, and the rest of the people called him her Schatze, which means "Sweetheart."

FRANCELLE: Yeah. Sweetheart in German.

CLARK: There was Alonzo Christian, and his nickname was Hotsie

FRANCELLE: Oh, I remember Hotsie.

CLARK: Everybody remembers Hotsie.

KAREN: Hotsie had the Gulf Filling Station.

FRANCELLE: I don't think there was any place else to get gas except for Hotsie's, and my parents had a little charge account. They'd write it down, we'd go in there and they'd get paid once a month or whatever it was.

KAREN: Sure, sure.

CLARK: He had a parrot for years, and when he had that Gulf Station some guy came by heading to California, and he saw the menagerie that Hotsie had behind the station. You know, he had 'coons, he had wild cats, you name it. Bob Snow was the Game Warden and he would come by and ask Uncle Hotsie if he'd hold on to that for a while until he could find a place for it, and Uncle Hotsie would have it maybe a year.

FRANCELLE: This was the bobcat—

KAREN: Yeah.

CLARK: People would stop just to look at the different animals. But anyway, the parrot story is the man saw all those animals, "Could I add a parrot to your menagerie, I'm going all the way to California, and I don't want to take this blasted parrot all the way out there." So, Uncle Hotsie put him in a cage that he had, and that parrot lived there for about forty or fifty years—

FRANCELLE: Oh, my goodness.

CLARK: The parrot could talk, and one of the things he would say, Uncle Hotsie had a son named Kenneth, and every time Kenneth came into the station that parrot would say, "Hotsie! Hotsie! Kenneth's coming! Kenneth's coming!" That was one of the things he knew well!

FRANCELLE: Did someone teach him to say that?

CLARK: Evidently!

FRANCELLE: Or he heard people saying that?

KAREN: He probably heard people saying that.

CLARK: And even when he got out of the station and put his hat on the back porch, the parrot would say, "Hotsie! Watch out!" "Kenneth's coming!"

FRANCELLE: Did Kenneth hear him say that? I'm sure he did.

KAREN: I'm sure he did. Yeah.

FRANCELLE: Oh, that is very, very funny!

KAREN: But do you have any stories about your grandparents? Your Papa Jake?

CLARK: Yeah. Papa Jake Klein. Jacob Klein. And everybody called him Papa Jake and my grandmother was Mama Jake.

KAREN: I couldn't get over that. They didn't even give her a name. She was Mama Jake!

CLARK: I never knew her name until years later. She was always Mama Jake!

FRANCELLE: That's cute.

CLARK: I knew who she was.

KAREN: At least call her by name.

FRANCELLE: So, the Klein's pretty much all lived in Kerrville, then.

CLARK: Yeah.

FRANCELLE: Yeah. The grandparents were in Fredericksburg.

CLARK: Yeah.

FRANCELLE: So, where did you start school, Clark?

CLARK: I started at Notre Dame. I was not a Catholic at the time, but my dad was a fallen away Catholic, and my mother was a Lutheran, and they both wanted me to go to Notre Dame. For one thing, the laundry was right across the street.

FRANCELLE: Oh. Close.

CLARK: Yeah. And I remember my first week in school Father Kemper took me by the hand and walked me across the street for a whole week. Father Kemper knew every kid in school by the last name. He'd even know the first name. But that old man walked me across the street to make sure I got over there to where my dad was, and then after that we just saw him on the grounds. But yeah, that was interesting.

FRANCELLE: Yeah. We've heard so many stories doing our oral histories about Father Kemper. He definitely was a saint, I mean there's no other word you could use for him because everybody that has told a story about him, and he went above and beyond what he was supposed to do.

CLARK: Well, he was part of the Kemper family out of Chicago, and they sent him here to die because he had tuberculosis, and he lived until 1962, I think. And he saw a lot of kids go through there before he passed away.

FRANCELLE: When did you start Tivy?

CLARK: 1952. That's when I graduated from Notre Dame.

FRANCELLE: Did you and Karen know each other at Notre Dame?

CLARK: Well, I knew her as a little fat girl.

KAREN: I was a little fat girl!

CLARK: I'll tell you a little story! I was working as a letter carrier in San Antonio, and I moved in with a guy, which now would be taboo, two guys living together.

KAREN: Right, but back then—

CLARK: Roger D. Roberson, you might know him. He had graduated, and was there at San Antonio working for an electrical company, and he asked for a roommate, and I was looking for a place to stay, so we rented an apartment, and he said, "Clark, I'd like to take you on a blind date," and he was dating Doris Vallier

KAREN: From our class.

CLARK: And I said, "Oh, I don't want to go up there. She's too young for me. She's five and a half years younger than me." And he said, "Oh, come on up." He said, "They're having a junior play, and Karen and Doris are going to be ushers there." So, I said, "Okay, I'll go up with you." So, I went up with him and suffered through the junior play, and after that we went to the Grove and had—

KAREN: Cokes.

CLARK: Cokes and we went our separate ways. We went back to San Antonio, and, what, two and a half, three years later I went down to see her at the business college.

KAREN: Well, we were dating then.

CLARK: I know. That's what I was saying. You were at the business college and I was—

KAREN: Right.

CLARK: Anyway, I had a '60 Chevrolet, and I had bought this big, huge box that just barely fit in my back seat, and I said, "Karen, I have something for you." So, she opened the big box, and there was a smaller box, so she opened that one and there was a still smaller box about a shoe size. I said, "Keep going." Well, she got down to the bottom one, and it contained an engagement ring.

FRANCELLE: And you were totally surprised?

KAREN: Oh, definitely! Yes!

CLARK: I'd already been up to ask permission from her parents to marry her. They said, "You've got it!" So, I presented her with the ring.

FRANCELLE: They didn't tell you Karen?

KAREN: Oh, no! It was a big surprise!

FRANCELLE: And you told him "Yes," I'm supposing?

KAREN: I did.

FRANCELLE: And when did you all get married after that? How long was

CLARK: March 3, 1962

FRANCELLE: So that was a couple of months after he gave you the ring?

KAREN: Right

CLARK: We actually went together two, a little over two years before we actually got married.

FRANCELLE: You got married in Kerrville?

KAREN: Uh-huh. At Notre Dame

FRANCELLE: Full circle!

KAREN: Oh, yes! Everything's happened to us at Notre Dame.

FRANCELLE: I may have skipped something. Did you want to talk about your great-grandparents? Did I skip that?

CLARK: Uh, yeah. They were, they were characters, well my grandfather was, anyway. Of course, his name was Jacob, but they called him Jake, and he was a master carpenter, and—

KAREN: We have one of his tables that he actually carved the wood, and put it together. It's lovely.

FRANCELLE: Oh, my.

CLARK: Yeah. But he was, they were drilling post holes using dynamite, and he stuck the stick down in the hole, and it didn't go off and he went over to look, and it went off—

FRANCELLE: Uh-oh.

CLARK: And he lost his eye, and he was, as long as I knew him he was blind in one eye. But anyway, during World War II, my cousin, who is ten years older than I am—he was, I guess, in high school—and my aunt, Aunt Laura Maudie, she owned a Keller's liquor store. You remember that, where that one was?

FRANCELLE: What street was that on?

CLARK: There where Crenwelge's car lot is.

FRANCELLE: Oh, yeah. Yes.

KAREN: What was, what was the—

FRANCELLE: By the Chatterbox?

KAREN: Yeah! That's right. I was trying to remember.

CLARK: Right next to the Chatterbox.

FRANCELLE: Now I remember that.

CLARK: But anyway, Maudie told her son, "Andy, you better go down and get your grandpa before he gets in trouble. He's down at the courthouse," and Andy went down, and he was sitting around the courthouse like some of the old codgers, and he was telling how he had gotten this letter from Hitler.

FRANCELLE: Was that real?

CLARK: He was a staunch German, you know, and that was before, probably about 1938.

FRANCELLE: He was ringing their bell.

CLARK: We weren't at war yet, but he was telling about how he got a letter from Hitler, and all the people were impressed.

KAREN: Yeah, I bet.

CLARK: But war was looming.

FRANCELLE: Sure, yeah. It was right around the corner.

- CLARK: My aunt wanted him out of there before somebody lynched him. You know, back then my mother and dad both spoke German, and I learned a little German. My sisters didn't because that was when the war came along, and speaking German was revoked except over in Fredericksburg.
- FRANCELLE: My mother was German, too. And so, going back to Tivy, what were you involved in at Tivy?
- CLARK: Just trying to get through school. I was the sports editor of the yearbook.
- FRANCELLE: Oh, ok. So, you were a big sports fan
- CLARK: My senior year, yeah.
- KAREN: He couldn't play sports because he had broken his jaw.
- CLARK: When I was at Notre Dame we were playing football on a vacant lot playground, and the nuns told us not to play contact, not to play tackle.
- FRANCELLE: Not to tackle each other. Yeah.
- CLARK: Yeah. And when they weren't looking we did. Pat Grona hit me, knocked me down, fell on me, hit me right here in my mouth, and I went to Dr. Packard and he put some stitches down in there. Well, a couple of days later my jaw was all swollen, black and blue, so I went back to Dr. Packard and he x-rayed and said, "You got a broken jaw." He said, "I can't do anything now, it's too late." I said, "Well, can I play football?" He said, "You can, but don't come see me again, you go see another doctor." So, I gave up football as a contact sport, but I always loved football.
- FRANCELLE: Oh, good. Yeah. Well, sports editor was probably a lot safer.
- KAREN: That's true! That's true.
- CLARK: I got to go to all the games.
- FRANCELLE: Games! At what year did you graduate from Tivy?
- CLARK: 1956, same year as Gerald Robison your brother.
- FRANCELLE: Then what did you do after that?
- CLARK: Two days after I graduated I went into the U.S. Army. I went in '56 and got out in '59.
- FRANCELLE: That was your idea?

CLARK: That was my idea! Exactly, I enlisted for three years, and I planned it all out. I went down to look at the recruiters in San Antonio, and I said, "Have you got anything going to Germany?" And he said, "No, I don't think so." I said, "I'll go look at the Air Force. They could probably send me to Germany." He said, "Well, let me look a little more." So, he pulled out a drawer from the filing cabinet, and he said, "We do have a contingent going to Germany, and you will go to Germany." And he put it on my enlistment record. So, I enlisted to go to Germany, and that's what I did.

FRANCELLE: Wow!

CLARK: I went to Fort Ord for basic

FRANCELLE: California?

CLARK: Went to Germany and then I spent 18 months in Germany and came back and spent a year at Fort Benning.

FRANCELLE: Uh-huh.

CLARK: Got out and went to work for the post office.

FRANCELLE: Well. Was the service, was that a good experience?

CLARK: It was.

KAREN: Tell them about your National Guard.

CLARK: Well, after I went to work for the post office, one of the carriers I got to know real well, asked me to join his unit, since I had active duty time and they were looking for somebody like that. He said, "Come look at my unit." So, I went over one night—that's when we used to meet, at night and on weekends—I went over and liked what I saw, so I raised my hand again and was sworn in to the Texas Army National Guard and I retired in 1982 from the National Guard as a Command Sergeant Major.

FRANCELLE: Did you learn to speak some more German when you went to Germany?

CLARK: No. I mean, some

FRANCELLE: Just enough to get by?

CLARK: I didn't. I didn't really go out that much—

FRANCELLE: Okay

CLARK: Uh, because we spent a lot of time in the field.

FRANCELLE: Sure.

CLARK: Now, I did come up to, maybe some kids out in the field.

FRANCELLE: Uh-huh.

CLARK: And I'd say, "Ich bin Schnitzel? Are you a Bratwurst?" And they'd go run and get us some bratwursts.

FRANCELLE: The food was important!

KAREN: Yeah, right, yes!

CLARK: But yeah, I improved my German because Karen and I made five trips over to Germany.

KAREN: Yeah, we did family research on his side.

CLARK: We spent five hours in the archbishop's archives. We traced my maternal and paternal great-great grandparents all the way back to 1790.

FRANCELLE: Wow.

CLARK: And we met some people that lived in the little town where my ancestors were born, and they translated some of the more intricate details, and we made copies of all the birth records.

KAREN: And Baptisms.

CLARK: And the civil record, so much of that was destroyed. But anyway, as we were leaving the archbishop's archives this one person that was a secretary there, she said, "Why are you doing all this?" I said, "Well, we're looking for copies of my ancestors." She said, "The Mormons were here ten years ago and got all that same information."

KAREN: So, they're in Salt Lake City, Utah!

FRANCELLE: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

KAREN: Yeah, right, but still we got to go to Germany!

FRANCELLE: The Mormons keep wonderful records.

KAREN: They really do.

FRANCELLE: What color was that Chevy that you had?

CLARK: I bought it in 1960. It was a gray Chevrolet. I bought it from Peterson's Auto.

FRANCELLE: Yeah. Do you remember how much it cost?

KAREN: Of course, you remember how much it cost

FRANCELLE: About \$3,000, probably.

KAREN: Probably, that's probably right.

Clark: Twenty-five hundred.

FRANCELLE: Well, I was close!

KAREN: Good old days!

FRANCELLE: The fish tail, or whatever that was called on the back, was that the year?

CLARK: The what?

FRANCELLE: I'm saying, "fish tail", but that thing that went up in the back?

CLARK: Well, the '60 had flat fins

FRANCELLE: Oh, it was flat.

CLARK: The '59 through '60 had the flat fins.

KAREN: What was the green and white one? What year was that?

CLARK: That was a Plymouth.

KAREN: Oh, all right.

CLARK: A '57 Plymouth.

KAREN: Okay. It had those—

FRANCELLE: Tails.

KAREN: Yeah, tails on it. Right, yeah.

CLARK: The '57 Chevy was the one that had the, uh, fins.

FRANCELLE: Yes, '57 had the fins.

FRANCELLE: And glass packs.

KAREN: Oh, yes, definitely.

FRANCELLE: Okay, and did you take a test to get in to the post office then? Is that something that had been in your mind to do?

CLARK: Well, my cousin worked at the post office in San Antonio as a carrier, and he said, "Come on down and join the post office." I said, "I wore a uniform now for three years," and I was in the Guard while I was in high school, so likely four years, and he finally talked me into it. So, I went down to the personnel office as it was known back then, and the lady said, "How long have you been out of the military?" I said, "I got out the 28th of May." Well, she looked on the calendar, and I was there on the 120th day after my discharge. She said, "We have to put you on the next test that's given. You're a veteran, and you've applied within 120 days." So, that's how I got into the post office.

FRANCELLE: Okay.

CLARK: But then it's interesting. I worked there for two years and transferred in to Austin as a letter carrier, and I worked there ten years. Still trying to get home to Kerrville. I came over whenever I could come home and talk to the postmaster, H.T. Paul. You might remember him, and he'd say, "No, we don't have any openings." Well, one day the postmaster had to tie a note on my time card, and he and I were big friends because I was a union rep, and we got to talk a lot. So, he had a note on my time card that said, "Clark, come up to my office, we need to see you." And I thought, "Oh, what have I done, now?" And I was thinking it was union related.

KAREN: Yeah, right.

CLARK: So, I got up there and went in the doors. I asked the secretary, he said, "Yeah, go on in, he's expecting you." So, I went in and sat down, he said, "Clark, You've been trying to transfer to Kerrville for quite a while, haven't you?" I said, "Yes, I sure have." He said, "Well, the postmaster over in Kerrville called me and asked me if I'd let you go." And he said, "Reluctantly, he's one of my better carriers." And I had, and I had a bunch of letters of recommendation from my customers, and, anyway, he said, "Do you still want to go?" I said, "Yes, sir." He said, "When do you want to go?" I said, "I'll give you two weeks, anyway." And so we packed up and moved to Kerrville.

FRANCELLE: Back home.

KAREN: Yeah. Back home.

KAREN AND CLARK KLEIN

- CLARK: But it was kind of ironic. He had already been out to my house. He went up to my house, Karen was in bed—she had just carried a baby—
- KAREN: I had just lost a baby.
- CLARK: She lost a baby after nine months, and he sat down—my mother-in-law was there—and he sat down on a chair beside the bed and told her that he had granted our transfer to Kerrville, so she knew it before I did!
- FRANCELLE: Wow. Isn't that nice?
- KAREN: Right.
- FRANCELLE: That's really nice. Well, while we're talking about children, go ahead and give us your children's names.
- KAREN: Our older son is Clark Dennis Klein, Jr. He goes by Chuck. He's married. He lives in North Carolina. He and his wife don't have any children, but they have dogs.
- CLARK: Good grandchildren for me and him!
- FRANCELLE: He graduated from A&M, and he did his postgraduate work at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, so we got to go to Arkansas quite a bit and loved it. But anyway, he is an entomologist and head of his department in, um... what's the company?
- CLARK: BASF. German company
- KAREN: And he goes back and forth to Germany a couple of times a year just for meetings there. But he's traveled all over the world with his entomology work. But anyway, our younger son Kevin lives in Round Rock, Texas, and he's married. He married a local girl, Gabriela Ramirez, and she's the youngest of five sisters.
- FRANCELLE: Local from Kerrville?
- KAREN: Local from Kerrville, and they have two sons. The older son just got married a year ago, and the younger son is at North Texas going to college. They are Joseph and Gabe. And then our daughter, Chris Klein Pankratz. She lives with her two sons two blocks from us.
- FRANCELLE: Oh, how nice?
- KAREN: Her older son is Sam, and he is in the ROTC at Tivy, and loving it.
- CLARK: He's a senior
- FRANCELLE: So, you've got another generation going to Tivy!

KAREN: Yeah! We have another generation, and Jake (Jacob) is coming up. He's in the 7th grade here. And I think he's going to be our sportsman. He likes sports.

CLARK: He plays football and baseball.

FRANCELLE: Makes Papa happy!

KAREN: That's right! Yeah.

FRANCELLE: Don't let him break his jaw!

CLARK: But our middle son, Kevin. He worked for the Comptroller.

KAREN: Oh, yeah. Right.

CLARK: He's not an Aggie.

FRANCELLE: Oh.

CLARK: He went to Stephen F. Austin.

FRANCELLE: Okay.

CLARK: Karen's brother went to Stephen F. Austin, and Joseph, our grandson, went to Stephen F. Austin.

FRANCELLE: Well, before we wrap up, tell me how Herzog Street got its name.

KAREN: That's where the Herzog home was.

FRANCELLE: Okay.

KAREN: Right. That's where Nathan Herzog lived

CLARK: You know where the Beck apartments are?

FRANCELLE: Yes!

KAREN: That's where the house was.

CLARK: The house was up sitting on a little—

KAREN: Knoll over there.

CLARK: And it looked like a colonial plantation—

KAREN: Right.

CLARK: Beautiful home and that was Nathan's home.

KAREN: They owned the acreage around there.

CLARK: All the way down to the river

FRANCELLE: Probably had a little farmland. And, I mean, you know, they were probably by themselves

KAREN: Right. Dad's sister, Erna, said she remembers, as a small child, visiting the Herzog's, and they used to love going down and playing by the river.

FRANCELLE: How did it get named Herzog, then? Because—

KAREN: Because Nathan Herzog owned all that, yeah, and his wife was Lena Dietert, who was Christian Dietert's daughter so that's how that branch goes.

FRANCELLE: All right

CLARK: Tell her about your Aunt Erna. You barely mentioned her.

KAREN: Well, she was dad's sister, Erna Herzog Pearson. Her husband was Angus, and they were both professors at the University of Texas, and she was sort of in the ground level of the computer era. It was really neat, and he was, they were both—

CLARK: Physics professors

KAREN: Very intelligent people, but they didn't make you feel that way when you were with them, I mean they thoroughly enjoyed you, and wanted you to talk to them. But he was in the ground floor of the microwave. He worked on that.

FRANCELLE: Oh, my goodness.

KAREN: Yeah.

FRANCELLE: Very smart.

KAREN: Very smart.

FRANCELLE: Thank heavens for the microwave!

KAREN: Isn't that the truth? That's right.

FRANCELLE: Thank you all!

END



TOM POLLARD

CH. CHAN LIAI
LIFE BOAT



NATHAN HERZOG



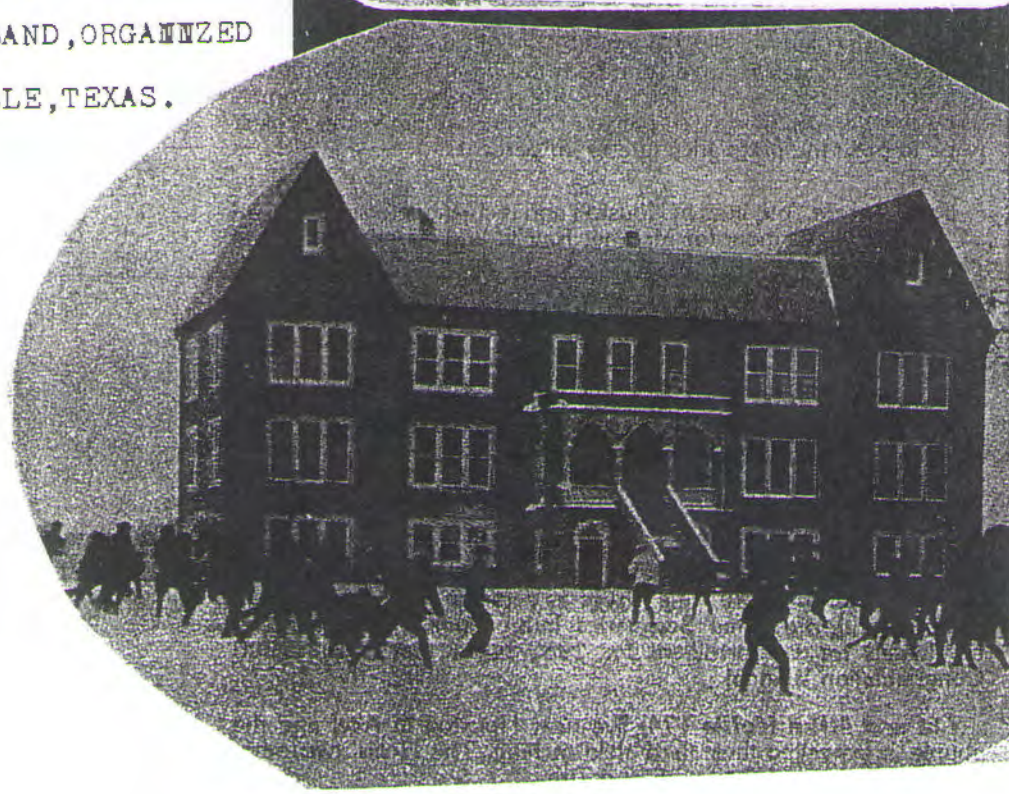
LENA DIETERT HERZOG



PROF. J. J. CHARLIER AND THE FIRST
SCHREINER INSTITUTE BAND, ORGANIZED
BY HIM IN 1923, KERRVILLE, TEXAS.



PROFESSOR JULIAN JEROME CHARLIER





IDA KLEIN BATES, EDWIN-EDDIE, WALTER JOSEPH-SHOT, LAURA-MAUDE, ALONZO CHRISTIAN-HOTSIE, LOUIS P.-TINY, ELMO-EMO, VERONICA KLEIN STOCKARD-VERA

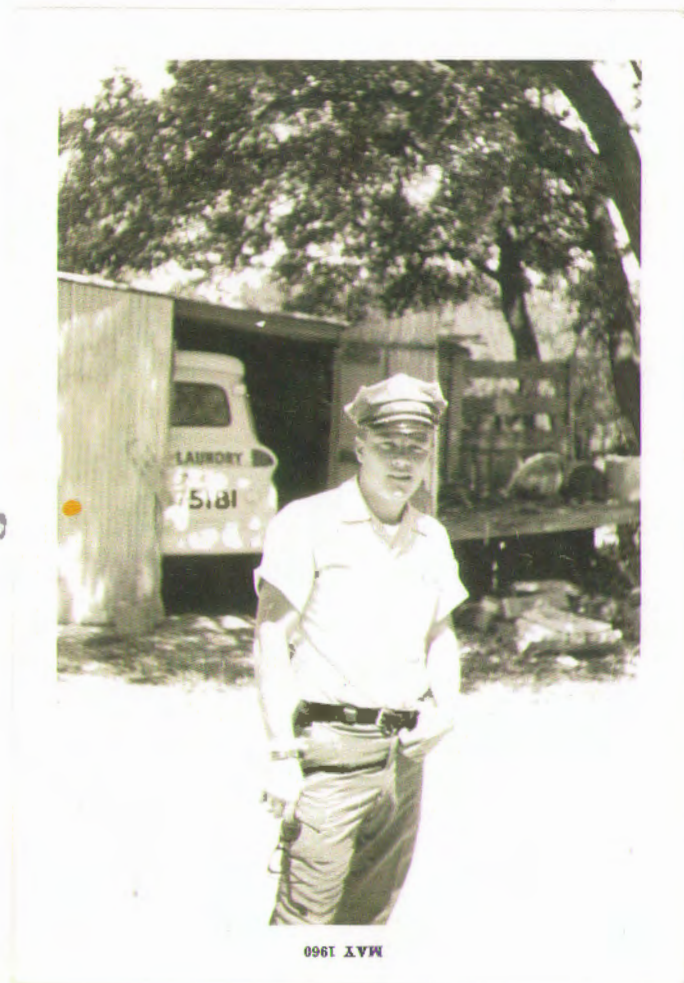
JACOB-PAPA JAKE AND ROSA LANG KLEIN-MAMA JAKE



CLARK IN ARMY UNIFORM



KAREN IN WEDDING DRESS, 1962



CLARK IN FRONT OF LAUNDRY TRUCK IN 1960



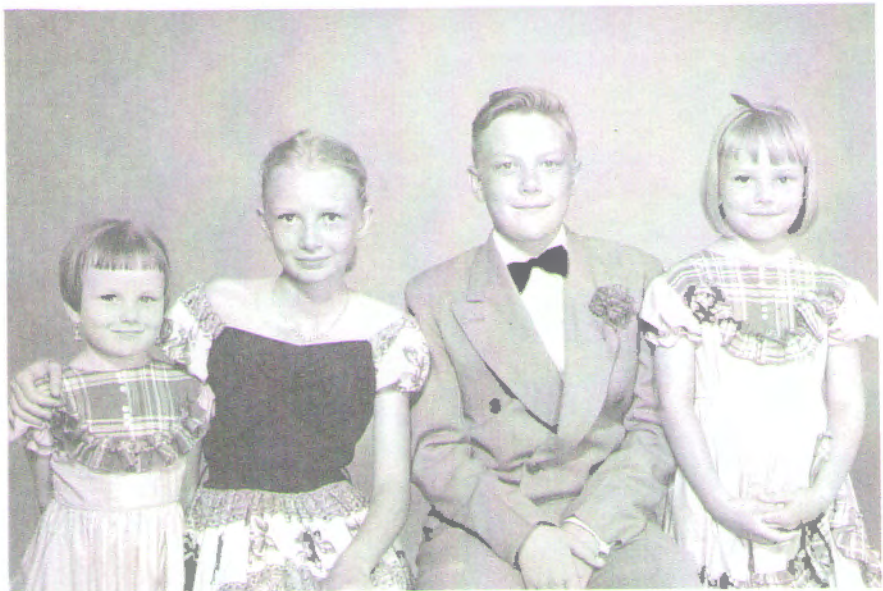
KAREN'S MOM AND DAD, CATHERINE AND OZZIE HERZOG



KAREN AND CLARK



OZZIE AND CATHERINE, ERNA [DAD'S SISTER] AND HUSBAND ANGUS PEARSON



MARILYN, BARBARA, CLARK AND YOLANDA KLEIN



CHUCK, CHRIS, CLARK, KAREN AND KEVIN KLEIN



KAREN AND CLARK WITH GRANDSONS JAKE AND SAM PANKRATZ AND GABE AND JOSEPH KLEIN