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The following is an oral history interview with Alfred Ely, Jr., July 8 and 9, 1977, in Denver, Colorado, where he was attending an executive committee meeting of the Boone and Crockett Club. Mr. Ely was secretary of the Club from 1962 to 1973. The interviewer is Gyongyver Kitty Beuchert, office administrator of the Boone and Crockett Club.

GB: Mr. Ely, could you give me your birthdate and place of birth?

AE: Oh yes. I was born, believe it or not, June 22, 1918. I was born in Lawrence, Long Island, in my grandparents' house. What else do you want? Where I was born and... We lived on Long Island through about 1928 when my mother and father got divorced, then basically I lived with my father and spent the summers with my mother, having come to the West, all through the West with Mother and Europe till the 1930's. My father remarried and we went on a hunting trip in British Columbia. That was 1931 or '32.

What I'm trying to build up to on this is that I should go back... My father graduated from Princeton in 1905. There's been a representative of the family at Princeton ever since it was founded. It's the College of New Jersey, which has no bearing here. But in his class and also his closest friend and his roommate through all four years of college was Childs Frick.

Now on Long Island, regressing, during World War I, we lived in Cold Springs Harbor, and then shortly after World War I we had a house in New York City, but we
had a summer place on the Frick place on Long Island. And obviously Clay Frick, who was a member of the Club, and myself, we grew up together with Clay's three sisters. We had the privilege of learning and studying under Harold Anthony, courtesy of Mr. Frick.

Mr. Frick had his own research laboratory on his place in Long Island and my father and Childs Frick started shooting bow and arrow, I'd hate to guess what year it must have been. In the mid '20's it must have been. As a child, I can remember Daddy and Mr. Frick, believe it or not, making their own arrows cause no one else could do it, and they had targets set up. Also they converted Piping Rock Club, which was, better not say this in the presence of some of the members that might hear this, it was really a very lovely club and they didn't think that people ought to be allowed to shoot archery at the Piping Rock Club, but Mr. Frick and father used to go over there in shorts on a Sunday afternoon and shoot archery. All of which led to my father's, I guess, interest in hunting.

He did a number of hunting trips before I went out with him in '30 or '31, where he hunted exclusively with a bow and arrow. Went after grizzly, black bear, sheep, goat in British Columbia with a guide by the name of Tex Wood. He also [went with], for some reason the name sticks in my mind, Cash Stiles. I don't think Cash Stiles has any relationship to the Boone and Crockett Club. However, he was a great archer and I believe he's the one that got them all to shooting. I'm not so sure that Mr. Frick ever went on the hunting trip with Daddy but Clay would remember that. Of course Jimmy Clark, who was a very good friend I think of Mr. Frick's as well as of Daddy's, having
mounted many of Mr. Frick's heads and I believe he also mounted all the heads that we ever shot.

While we're on this, I've shot bear in British Columbia, Rocky Mountain goat, antelope in Tsetse, Wyoming, with my father. Most of my hunting trips involved those days with my father. He was brought up on a farm in northern New Jersey, where the family had fairly extensive farms over the years. I think the last 1800 acres were sold about 1940 up at, believe it or not, where the Bunny Club is now at Great Gorge. That was one of the family farms. So Daddy was always an outdoorsman. He always hunted and fished in the early days and did a lot of upland game shooting.

As far as my schooling is concerned, I went to school in New York City at Browning School, then I went to Harvey's School in Hawthorne, New York, and then from there to St. Mark's School in Southboro, Massachusetts, and at that point reverted down to being at Princeton instead of Harvard, where I probably should have gone because the rest of my family lived up there. So much for that. From there I graduated into the Army, which is what I assume what you want.

GB: I would like to know a little bit about your military experience.

AE: My military experience is fairly short and brief. Not an awful lot of it. I graduated second lieutenant from college, went to Battery Officers 14 in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1941. In the fall of '41 joined the First Infantry Division, where, lo and behold, who do you suppose was our division commander? No other than Teddy Allen. General Allen.
But guess who was the assistant division commander? General Theodore Roosevelt.

Which I should mention at this point. There has been a long, long friendship between the Roosevelts - I do not mean Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but the Theodore Roosevelts - back to my great grandparents I believe, on my father's side of the family. I have known and have been brought up with young Quintan, Kermit and the whole batch when we were all kids together in Long Island. Actually I fought the war in the north African campaign with both General Teddy Roosevelt and his son Quintan, and I introduced Quintan to his wife in England before he went... no I guess it was after we came back from Africa, before we went to Europe. Quintan was wounded, if my memory is right, in north Africa. He married a girl who was a Red Cross donut girl. Charming. She served donuts. Charming girl. And so much for that. You can get ahold of Quintan, because he's still living isn't he? No, he's dead. He died in an air crash in China. He formed an airway in China or something like that.

GB: If you're talking about Theodore Roosevelt's son Quintan, he died quite young.

AE: Yeah. In an air crash in China or something. He started an airway. But she's still living down there near Sagamore Hill and she could probably, if you could catch her, give you a little background into Quintan and his father, Teddy, over in Europe, cause she was over there. It's sort of interesting. Gee, I'm sort of wandering all over the place cause one thing leads into another.
Getting back to Sagamore Hill, my mother, believe it or not, I don't know whether she was married to my father at that point or not, joined the women's lib group of those days and paraded on Sagamore Hill, asking for the women's right to vote. Back in those days after World War I. Must have been before World War I. And it was a great embarrassment, obviously, to my grandfathers on both sides, since they all were friends.

On the military... My military career started out at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, as I started to say, with the First Infantry Division. We weren't there very long before we went to Florida – no Fort Benning, Georgia, first, where we did air ground maneuvers, close in attack procedures, which has no bearing here, but again Teddy Roosevelt... and Quintan was in the 32nd Field, I believe, at that point. Then we went to Camp Blanding, Florida, which was our permanent post, and did more training, and from there we came up to Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, and under Teddy Roosevelt, we were the first total United States infantry division to embark upon the Queen Mary in one group.

GB: Excuse me for one minute. Is the Teddy Roosevelt you're referring to Theodore Roosevelt's son?

AE: Yes. Archie's brother. We arrived... We all went over with Saw's escort. I believe it was the first time the Queen did that. We had occasional air cover from the Germans as well as ourselves, but we never got fired on. We landed in England and at
that point we were at Tedworth Barracks - the first American troops in it. This is all regressing a great deal. We did have maneuvers, landing maneuvers, up in Gurrick, Scotland, then we went into north Africa in June, no, yes, it was June wasn't it. It must have been the fall, September, I guess, '42, '41, '42. Teddy Roosevelt was with us and General Allen. And I can remember in north Africa when Teddy Roosevelt (the battle of Elogatter) was standing there and talking to us. I was in the artillery, and he said "Gentlemen, we are going to go here. And see here's where we are and there's where we're going." He took his little walking stick, which he always carried with him (I think it's in Sagamore Hill) and drew a straight line in the sand and said, "Here's where we go there." He was really a great fellow. And I think he was a man's man and really a good soldier. Course then we went into Sicily and at that point we did not have Terry Allen and Teddy Roosevelt anymore. We'd lost them. We'd picked up . . . Was it Sicily? No I guess we went in under Terry Allen and Teddy Roosevelt to Sicily and after Sicily they both got relieved of the division and General Hubener and Bill Wyman came in. I'm digressing again. Our artillery commander was Cliff Andrus. That only becomes important from the military point of view. We went up, staged up to England again, where we were in Lanford, and that's where we left Teddy Roosevelt. However we got back to Teddy on the beach cause we did the prime assault on the beach on D-Day in Normandy. At that point I was the general's aide, so that was a different point of view. Quintan Roosevelt was still with us at this point on the beach and I was with Quintan when the phone call came in. His father was with the 4th Division, if my memory is correct. When he was in the 4th Division, he had a stroke and died right
there on the beach. So that's enough of the military history, I think. Only because it involves the Roosevelts.

GB: Well, one of the things that I wanted to ask you about was your career and how you selected it. But it's different from your father's isn't it, because wasn't he a lawyer?

AE: Yes. I abhorred lawyers. He worked too hard. Oh, Daddy worked all the time. He'd bring work home. He probably was a great lawyer, very meticulous lawyer. I don't think he was smart. He was a great worker and worked things through. He did, and this is only for background, he did wills, trusts and estates and did work for the Mellons. This ties in again. I can remember the Mellons in the '20's and '30's because he was consulting with them and Childs Frick. The Frick Foundation, the Frick Museum and all this and that. But that's not related to B&C. But I also might relate another interesting thing here, and this is simply background. This shows the web. The Hoyts. As a child I can remember visiting the Hoyts at Princeton. There's another one in there. The Dicks. As a child I can remember visiting the Dicks and of course the Fricks and Roland Harriman and Averill Harriman. Averill was never a member, but Roland. Roland Harriman was an usher, or his wife was an usher, at my father's and mother's wedding, and I think some of the duPonts are in the Boone and Crockett Club. Mother was an usher at one of the duPont weddings, years and years ago down at Winterport.
GB: You know one of the things I didn't get on here is your mother's name. Obviously we know your father's name.

AE: Well, my mother has no bearing except through her I came into this world. Her name was Francis Burr. And the Burrs have no bearing, but we're sitting out here in the country that meant something to them. It was . . . One of her grandparents was the founder, vice-president of the early Bank of America. President of the Bank of America and vice-president of the Santa Fe Railroad. He was dry goods merchant in Boston. That's interesting. And so here we are.

GB: Getting a little bit back to your career. How did you select your career?

AE: I can wander all over the place. Well I came out . . . What did I do when I came out? I went to work with National Dairies, believe it or not, in the textile business. We made wool simile out of milk, sour cream. Every time they washed it, it smelled like sour milk. From that I went into life insurance, tending more back into my father's field, which is estate planning. I majored in estate planning, became a CLU in estate planning, estate administration. Left that. That led me into banking, where I stopped in 1970 or '71, having been to the Graduate School of Banking. That sort of brings me to 1971, when I quit. We just moved out West. What else shall I say?

GB: Are you actively pursuing your career now or are you retired?
AE: Too busy doing nothing.

GB: Okay. Well that kind of takes us to any memorable hunting trips you've had, especially if you've had some with some of the other members.

AE: Never have. The only real hunting trips I ever had were with my father, so there isn't much to say there. I've sort of recounted what I can remember from that. We did go out for two months in British Columbia, back before the airplane, and that's all I can say. It was just a good hunting trip.

GB: Well, in your case . . .

AE: Oh, we collected for the American Museum of Natural History. We collected shrews and flying squirrels, for Harold Anthony.

GB: Oh. Your father and you?

AE: Yeah.

GB: Now I think this is kind of obvious, but how was your early interest in conservation activities brought about?
AE: Through my father. What else can I say? You probably want to know why I joined the Boone and Crockett Club.

GB: Well, what led you to become a member?

AE: Well, I had asked my father at one point, "All of the things you've done in this world . . ." And he had done so many. He was very active in the New York Zoological Society.

Again, I eliminated the Fairfield Osborn family. Fairfield Osborn was an honorary life member. Probably one of the few who came in through associate membership. Fairfield and his father were very close friends of my father's, as well as my father's family, so there's a long relationship between the Zoological Society and the Osborns and my family. Of course, Mr. Osborn, Sr. was sort of the founder of it. I knew all of the Osborns as a child and we used to go skiing with them.

So coming back to . . . I asked Daddy one day, "All the activities you've done . . ." He was president of the Labrador Retriever Club of America, American Kennel Club Board. He did a lot of field trial judging up at Legonare with Dick Melon on Labradors, John Olin, a lot of these other people. He had Ducks Unlimited. I can't even remember all of these other organizations he participated in. And he said, "There's only one that's very worthwhile - really two. You can forget them all except Boone and Crockett Club and the New York Zoological Society."
GB: I want to interject something here. One of the reasons why I very specifically asked is because you have brothers don't you?

AE: Yes, I have brothers.

GB: And you became a member and they didn't, so I was curious.

AE: I'm the only one that's ever really hunted. My brother Danny is very heavily involved with Ducks Unlimited. He was very heavily involved in the New York Zoological Society but he's with Bill Spencer at First National City Bank and Danny is vice-president of World Automotive or something and I think spends a lot of time in England, and he just had to give up his work with the Zoological Society because of his business traveling. He is home so little. So he did get involved with that.

Oh, there's another member I should mention that I've known since the year one is Stuyv Pierrepont, who was a member of the Boone and Crockett Club. I'd forgotten that. His son Jack is, I think, currently treasurer of the New York Zoological Society. And Gus Paine.

Well when you're brought up with all of these people it sort of becomes second nature, so when Daddy died, Roland Harriman called me up and said, "I think you ought to become a member of the Boone and Crockett Club," and that's how I got proposed, as I just found out today, originally by Roland Harriman. He was my basic contact, but as our very efficient administrative assistant has said that Archie Roosevelt
had something to do with it, and of course Fairman Dick and I knew Charles Frick had. But those are the four. They had no way to keep me out I'm afraid. It was a foregone conclusion. I walked in the door.

At that point Bob Ferguson was secretary. He said to me, "I'm going to be the president next year." And this shouldn't be released. Alfred Hoyt was a fill-in president at the time, just cause they couldn't get anyone else to do it, and Bob was really running it. Bob, as you know, is a god son of President Theodore Roosevelt. His father was a very close hunting friend and companion.

You asked me earlier about hunting experiences. I'm probably one of the few that's in this Club for nothing I've done but for what his father has done. And it seemed logical to me that the one thing I could do is be secretary of the Club because you don't have to be an expert in anything. All you gotta do is sit there and dun everybody and keep the minutes and see that they get their work done. And in that part of the Club, I think the first meeting I went to Bob Ferguson said, "You ought to be secretary of this Club. The reason you ought to be secretary of this Club is there aren't many people around here who have the confidence of all of the members who are then sort of sticking their noses in the business, like Harold Anthony and Childs Frick, etc. cause they won't listen to some of these other people. They don't know them. But they know you." And through that I did become secretary of the Club and I did stay in.

GB: You were secretary for 10 years weren't you?
AE: Yeah, I believe it was a little longer. Not much.

GB: I think it was 11, yes.

AE: Yeah, but I think that, who was it, moved out West too, was secretary for longer than I was. Preceding me four or five years. If I had a Club book here I could tell you. So I joined the Club in the fall of '60, probably really the winter of '60. I went to that first dinner of mine was the Christmas, December of '60. Then at the Sagamore Hill meetings in the spring of '61. As usual, everybody was meeting at the Ferguson house. Fran Ferguson and Bob got me in a corner and said, "It's time we got some young people in." No swords thrown at Allan Ames or anybody else but I was younger at that point than most. Bob and I were the two young hopes at that point really, I guess. And Bob convinced me I should become secretary and, not knowing anything about conservation or anything else, I mean professionally, etc., it seemed logical that I could fit best there cause Bob and I probably had a better background in the total Club than anyone else, even though my short period in there. Cause Bob was brought up B&C, as was I.

GB: You know, one thing that I would like to ask you ask long as you're talking about him. Anything that you can interject about him I would really like to have on tape.
AE: Well of course, Bob Ferguson . . . Bob and I decided that we ought to get Clay Frick in the Club, so we after Clay Frick. And Clay was funny. He wasn't near a hunt. Course his father turned against hunting too. He almost resigned from the Club. Toward the end, when someone pointed out the big hunting he'd done in Africa and the slaughter and everything, he finally decided that hunting wasn't that bad if it was done intelligently. Will Clay had very much the same approach until Clay's son got to be old enough to go hunting. Then Clay decided to hunt. He's had several safaris in Africa, I believe, etc.

As to Bob Ferguson, I can't speak for prior to 1960, so if we go back I really can't speak of Madison Grant. I can't speak of Kermit Roosevelt; Fred Walcott; Archibald, Sr; Karl Frederick I can. I can remember Karl. Fairman Dick I knew well. Alfie Hoyt I've known for years. Then everybody beyond that, which would be Waters, Rhea, Pullman, and Dixon, I've known since but not prior to my membership in B&C.

And Bob Ferguson was dedicated. Obviously his father, being a hunting buddy of Theodore Roosevelt's and being a godson, Bob just knew [the Club] inside out. He had seen so much of Teddy Roosevelt -- President -- that he just knew of his philosophy. Bob worked at it. It was his main love, outside of his personal affairs. We would meet in New York, I would say the first few years almost once a week, and discuss B&C and problems and personalities. And I mean we did always have the list in mind and the membership policies. We were always looking ahead three and four years and five years who we were going to bring in the Club and where he could fit in, we hoped. We made a number of mistakes and not everybody stayed in the Club that
we... moved to Europe or something like that or would lose interest in the Club. But I think it goes without saying that since... Oh Lord, there's another name that sticks in my mind here: Redmond Cross. I don't know how much Redmond Cross had to do with the Club but I do gather... and his son is still living.

GB: He was an officer for a long time.

AE: He and Daddy were very, very close friends and Redmond Cross... 1913 to 1940 he was treasurer. I believe he had a great influence on the Club. But I was trying to think of the people who had big influences on the Club and Ferguson would have to answer this, but obviously, Teddy Roosevelt did. Obviously, George Bird Grinnell. I know Madison Grant did. Fred Walcott must have had. I don't know how much influence Archie had. I think he was his father's son. Karl Frederick was a very dynamic fellow. Fairman Dick... he was just a wonderful guy. I just don't know how much he did for the Club. He was only president for three years. I don't know what else he did. That sort of... We were on Fairman Dick. I don't know how much Fairman... Fairman was fairly sick at the time that I came in the Club. And Alfie Hoyt was fairly sick. I did visit with Fairman at Princeton a couple of times and Alfie Hoyt a couple of times. Bob Waters ran this Club... I mean Bob Ferguson... and I would really say that Bob Waters was a very dynamic man, but I have a great feeling that a great deal of what Bob Waters did was as much... was muchly pre-shaped by Bob Ferguson, cause Bob spent lots of time with Bob Waters and Dick Mellon at Legonare
or Rachelwood and they did lots and lots of talking. Of course, then John Rhea came in, and John Rhea joined the Club in 1961 I believe it was, the year after I did. John stuck out in my mind, being a new member, and looking for nice people. Cause he and I always talked but nobody ever talked to John. He'd be there at all the meetings and finally one day we started talking, Bob and I did one day, "Who's gonna be the next president? We've got to do something." And I said, "What about John Rhea. He comes to all the meetings." So with that he was asked to be president or considered chairman of the Conservation Committee. He didn't know, but that was his step up to the presidency. I think he was chairman of the Conservation Committee.

GB: Yes, he was, for awhile.

AE: Or vice-chairman. I think he stepped right into chairman. He said, yes, he'd take it over, but he didn't know that in two years he was going to be president, but he knows it now.

GB: From the very beginning, most of the Club members have held high ranking positions in another conservation organization also, so that at any given B&C meeting, many of the organizations are represented. Do you feel that this is an important factor in the strength and effectiveness of the Club?
AE: There's no question, Kitty. It is, because if you go back to the days of Teddy Roosevelt when he started this, he had the National Parks, the Forest Service, known conservationists of the world, and this was all formed before he was president, as you well know, were all members, and these are the great men that set the policies. There were politicians, there were gentlemen sportsmen, there were workers, even in those days. And Bob Ferguson can expand on this, or Archie, I don't know if he's capable of it. But Bob Ferguson sort of imbued in me, more than my father did, cause we never really talked Boone and Crockett Club too much, but it's so important to have the three groups, if I'm right. The group that just wants to come to meetings and support the Club and be part of it, the Dick Mellons, the John Owens, people of that type, not necessarily because of their wealth, but because of the method of wanting to operate things. Then you had the other people who came and would do the work and run the Club, such as the Bob Fergusons, and the Alfred Hoyds, and Fairman Dick, etc. And then you also had to have the sports people, I'm thinking now of some of the writers we had. Actually the first editor of Outdoor Life was one of the original members of the Boone and Crockett Club, I think.

GB: George Bird Grinnell - no that's . . .

AE: I can't tell you right now who, but he was, I think. But for years we resisted some of the members who are now writers and there was a very strong policy about anyone who wrote for a living. Anyone who just wrote as a contributing editor would be a
different matter, but if it was his profession... And it kept some good men out. And
the reason for this, I do know, but I can't remember the names, but some of them were
good guys and some of them were bad guys. See you couldn't take the good guys
without taking the bad guys. But it was very important to have politicians who were
[tape ends.]

. . . . Patient of people such as Harold Anthony, I guess he was an associate
member. No, maybe he wasn't. But so many people contributed. Perry Osborn, for
example, was an associate member. He'd never hunted, but his information, his
advice was priceless. So you have to mix these groups together. And I think one of
the problems today, and I think this is a problem not so much in my father's time
because the Club was very small in those days, but I think when it was first started
there was a very close group and they used to lunch together a lot. I mean Teddy
Roosevelt, etc., George Bird Grinnell, and they worked very closely together. Then the
Club sort of fell apart and they used to have meetings during World War II at the
Downtown Club in New York and there'd be four or five people there. I guess it would
be Archie, my father, Fairman Dick... Dick Borden sort of came in on the end of that,
but I guess Roland Harriman. I think Wilton Lloyd Smith.

Well, it was a very small group and this was what you were talking about earlier,
how did they get the Club back going again. And they communicated there a bit and
then when I came into the Club it was sort of in 1960, a little embarrassing. You'd walk
in there and here would be these 60 people and you didn't know any. No one would
put name tags on. I tried that. That didn't work. However, this problem got licked
through Bob Ferguson's offices, in that we started these two and three day meetings and people would be there for two and three days. People began to get to know each other. They began to know what people were doing and where they fit into the picture. And also there was a very extensive communication system. Bob Ferguson has, as you know from reading his letters, and Bob Waters, that Bob Waters wouldn't do it, but Ferguson would write the newsletters. They were newsy. They'd get out information and get people thinking about things. Thinking that part of the Club. And I feel that that is sort of lacking today, very much so. We used to have these meetings in Washington, and this goes back to President Theodore Roosevelt's days, when we'd go down to the Cosmos Club. And I think "Pink" Gutermuth set it up but John Rhea was behind it. We had all the heads of the Forest Department and all of the regional forest directors were there. This was set to coincide with their meeting in Washington. It was a closed door. This was the kind of thing we don't do much of and the Conservation Committee did some of this. Well, basically that was when John Rhea was head of the Conservation Committee, I guess. But we need to do more of this kind of meeting with the Park Service or the BLM on hunting policies. The professional game management people, the State Game Commissioners, the paid hands as well as the appointed game commissioners. We need to... There's one place in this to be closed from the press cause all these Game Commission meetings are wide open. You can't talk about anything without the press breaking it the wrong way. But you need to have a place where people of different opinions can sit down and exchange their thoughts. And Smokey the Bear is a classic example that I think Boone and Crockett
Club probably can take credit for, allowing fires to get back into the forests and parks again. And this is an outgrowth of that meeting in Washington with the Forest Department.

GB: What happened there? I'm not familiar with the story.

AE: Well, it was just very frankly put on the table that we thought that virgin forests were not good for game, cause if you have a virgin forest there's no wildlife in a true virgin forest. And then there's set up all these wildlife areas and man was not allowed to set a foot in it or light a match, and if a fire started they'd burn it out right away. I mean they wouldn't let it burn. And "Pink" Gutermuth was very much for this when he had the job that is now Dan Poole's job and so was influential, and I guess Dan Poole is still taking a very active position and I think . . .

GB: In Wildlife Management and Statistics?

AE: Yeah. And I think we ought to listen to Dan Poole and his channels more. We are using them. I haven't been in touch with the Club, but I know these workshops have been set up in cooperation, I guess, with the Audubon Society and Dan Poole and some of the others. But it's so important that we have these kinds of exchange of thought meetings and we can't do it if our membership isn't broad, as we discussed earlier, broad enough to do all that. We have to act as a forum concept.
GB: Well, you know, one of the questions that I was going to ask you is exactly this. What do you think should be done to attract the right kind of new members?

AE: Well, I don't think you're going to get new members. Sure, you can get new members very easily, but I mean I don't think you are going to get new members you want unless your current membership is pretty close. If your current membership is close and you're working together as we have in the past and may well be doing today, but I haven't been that active in the Club, is you get to know these people, sooner or later you meet their friends or they . . . you run into people through the projects you're working that are capable of doing this. And there's always the scare you don't want the pros to take over. It doesn't matter what field they're in, whether it's politics or conservation or hunters or what. You don't want the pros to take over. You've got to keep a balanced group of people who aren't in the business professionally to make money in that phase of it. But you have to listen to the pros. So in answer to that, it just seems to me that if we could revert back to . . .

I think, for example, this Denver business is a fiasco. I believe a luncheon has been set up for after the Executive Committee [meeting] but here, as we sit here now, I can hear members sitting around laughing and talking and I've seen them around here. There has been no organized effort for a Dutch treat meeting at a club, a country club, or a hotel or someplace -- it could've been arranged in Denver -- to get the people together Friday evening, which is tonight, informally, to discuss the projects, the problems and just to lay it on the table. Not in the Executive Committee, not in the
committee meeting, but just to talk. What are the problems? Jack Parker had come back from hunting and came up with something. When we moved out West, we came up with a question... here is Bob LaSage's ranch. Now I mention Bob LaSage because Jimmy Doolittle knows Bob LaSage well and Bob Reeve knows Bob LaSage well and Frank Parker knows Bob LaSage. They were all in a flying club together at one point. I think it was 100 flyers or something like that. Bob LaSage's ranch makes one heck of a lot of money each year, it did, on just hunting fees alone, more than they did in the cattle business. And Vermajo Park, which is the WS Ranch up in northern New Mexico, is the same way. They still today... It's now owned by Penzoil. It is a sportsman's paradise, but it's a money maker. You've got to spend a lot of money to be there. Then you've got the Channel Land and Cattle Company. It has a 10 foot high metal fence around their property. Then you've got W Bar in New Mexico. Jack Parker is aware of these. These are hunting preserves. You aren't hunting under natural circumstances. In many places, they've withdrawn their cattle operations to increase the game range. Course in New Mexico, the game range, as Ladd Gordon can tell you, is basically built by the cattlemen anyhow and I'd... Well, that's another problem. But in any event, getting back to some ranches, and our son has been involved in this, from the point of view of guiding these people out there. The guides just get under the jeeps and hide cause they're scared to death they're gonna get shot. And this isn't hunting in fair chase. And we have reason to know and some heads have been challenged, that there have been elk and things taken not in fair chase and put in as such, from these hunting preserves. And then again, you get into the Indian lands out here. Now they're
getting into this, etc. You have problems that you have to be able to relate with these
different layers of people and if you can talk about this as we have, the problems of
hunting, and I think we have put into Fair Chase the idea of you should not hunt, I think
that the exact part of what they’re saying, where the fence restricts the flow of the
game. It becomes a problem. Something I never realized till Ladd Gordon told me that
an antelope can’t even get out of a standard cattle pasture. Especially if you have
woven wire. You have to leave a space between the second and third wire or the
antelope won’t jump it. You would always think an antelope would jump, but they will
not go over a barbed wire fence. Now these are the kind of things that you can only
learn but sitting around, and as you develop camaraderie and get to know your fellow
members, the names of people that are suitable for membership come up in
conversation, and then they’re encouraged to . . . or you stop and meet them
somewhere or they come to an annual meeting and get met. And I think this is where
the Club is missing. It’s operated, from what I feel from the outside because I haven’t
been participating, on a cold basis compared to how it has been operated in the past.
It seems to me the president, not necessarily be a fellow well met, slap you on the
back, no, but he has to be a diplomat. I’m not saying that presidents haven’t been
diplomats, but he’s got to really look ahead, plan ahead, not this year, not this month,
but two, three, four years ahead. When you know you’re going to have a meeting in
Denver, you’ve got to plan through somebody who’s in Denver, whether it’s a friend not
connected with the Boone and Crockett Club is immaterial, but you’ve got to arrange for
a way to get people together. That is the way - socially - to meet each other and
there's no reason why people who aren't members can't be brought to these informal
dinner meetings or meetings by members. It has been done in the past. Many a
member has been brought in. Frank Orth came in that way. He was brought to an
informal meeting. We all liked him so much and Frank Orth, he was vice-president of
the NRA prior to General Max Rich. Frank was a very dynamic man, etc. If you don't
do this, I don't think you're going to have a club. But through Ferguson's efforts, the
demand for the Club grew and at one time we had maybe 30-40 names that we were
playing with. A lot of the people didn't know we were playing with them, but we had
them on our list to look at.

We also feel that . . . and Duncan Hodgson is one that should be talked to too
cause he can give you a lot of it back. We feel that, like the Museum of Canada, we
should consider someone from there. And this is information gathering. I know it was
so impressive. The first meeting I went to, I think, is when this boondoggle business
came up in Alaska the first time, and they were talking about making Mount McKinley
National Park and setting aside some wildlife areas in Alaska, and Duncan Hodgson
stood up and said, "I've just been talking to the Prime Minister. [He said] whatever you
do in Alaska, we'll do in Canada." And that was one thing and there was so many
different things that came up. It just is priceless to me to see Fair Osborn stand up and
say, "Yes, we're on top of this. We know exactly what's going on here. This is what I
think the Boone and Crockett Club should do." We don't have that anymore. I don't
think. And we've got to -- maybe social business and friendships run away too much --
maybe there's too many Bob Elys and Clay Fricks and Peter Rolls in it because they're
friends, not because of what they do. I don't mean that as anything against any of the
names I've mentioned.

GB: No, no. What I wanted to interject here is, don't you think... I shouldn't word it
that way. Do you think that it was the friendships that made the Club, that gave it the
strength that it had?

AE: I'm sure. But I think that friendships can also ruin it if... In the recent years I
haven't been going to these meetings but I don't know whether they have had meetings
such as we used to have. So I'm talking completely off the cuff without... I shouldn't
be opening my mouth as my wife would say. I should keep quiet. But if we haven't had
those meetings that will go a long way toward getting the right people and not only that,
developing the interest among the people you've got. Cause if they don't have these
meetings there's no way they can get an injection as to the past history of the Club
without having attended these meetings and heard Duncan Hodgson speak.

And, incidentally, Duncan Hodgson is always very proud he lived on Ferry Hill
down on the islands. Have you ever seen that? And some of his correspondence is
priceless. Duncan is someone that thinks, has a very clear mind. He was a very, very
friend of Alexander Graham Bell's. Well, Duncan's just great guy. He should be
interviewed. But I learned so much from these people, sitting in Atlanta after a meeting
or a dinner and talking with them, or sitting with [them at] Mr. Frick's house or at the
Ferguson's or any a number of these. Or up at Dick Borden's. And you have to have
this background. When we met up in Boston it wasn't just restricted to the people who were active in the Club. We tried to draw everybody down from the hills of Boston and that's why we had meetings in different areas. And I think this Club is expanding. We've got more members in the West. I'm just repeating myself.

GB: You mentioned history and I wanted to ask you this. What do you feel were the original purposes of the Club?

AE: Well, I think you covered that in your opening statement. The original purpose of the Club . . . Well, it's my understanding that Teddy Roosevelt noticed a very serious fall-off — and this is all documented I think in Crusade for Wildlife — in game from one year to the next, hunting in the West. He felt it was a smart move, as the bylaws in the charter state, to form a group of interested sportsmen. And let's face it, no matter what anyone says and what the anti-gunners say, it's the hunters and the sportsmen that have kept the sport and game alive in this country, and bird life, all of it, and the whales, salmon, etc. If it weren't for the hunters and the sportsmen, you wouldn't have any of these today. It isn't all of the new happy group that don't really know what they are talking about but think they do. And hunting . . . Look at the elk herds in New Mexico or look at the antelope herds in New Mexico. Look at the antelope in Montana. And they've been hunted pretty heavily, but they were brought back and properly controlled by proper sportsmen, people like Lady Gordon. Lady can fill you in on this stuff, as you know.
GB: I don't know if you feel you’ve answered this next question already or not. How do you feel that the Boone and Crockett Club can best continue to carry out its original purposes and retain its position of influence and prominence?

AE: I think there's only one way and I think that's through the forum. This was very heavily discussed with Dick Mellon, Fair Osborn, I'd say Charles Frick. He sat in; he never said much. Bob Waters, Duncan Hodgson, others of that group. Sam Webb, Allan Ames. I've probably left some names out of there, but that group was all very active in the Club in the early '60's and late '50's and it was thoroughly agreed that this is the only way you can do it. I don't think it has changed yet. It was that way in Teddy Roosevelt's time and I think the only way you can... With our limited membership, you don't want to become a Pope and Young. Pope and Young has really gotten themselves in trouble. The tail's wagging the dog. They have 100 regular members. The club got started on our charter and I don't know how many associate affiliate members they've got but they’ve got a revolution everytime they mix, meet, because the tail is wagging the regular membership and they all have a vote. But when you're small you gotta work through the leverage of the forum concept. It's the only way. And you've got to have well known people involved that are respected. I think we've covered that really.

AE: Your question is regarding the merger with the NRA, if we can call it that?
GB: Yes. Were you for or against the arrangement?

AE: Well, of course, I can honestly say I believe this is Bob Ferguson's idea from the onset. And Bob and I talked about it for a long while before it got popped in the meeting. It just became obvious that in now way could the Boone and Crockett Club continue in this competition awards. We shouldn't use the word competition; it should be called awards program. In no way could they continue to police this with the modern transportation and travel and communication set up throughout the states with volunteer members, and the logical method of policing was to go to the NRA, who had state representatives and were on the spot and knew the different guides, etc. in the different areas. It was logical that we had to come... either that or abandon or sell [the program] to Outdoor Life or some other organization or give the franchise. And it appeared obvious that the NRA would have all of the qualifications we needed. First of all, they were sportsmen [who were] encouraging rifle shooting. Rifle shooting, which basically is our charter too. And conservation and game. Most people think the NRA is nothing but a Saturday night special group, but it isn't, basically. So we were very much for the NRA. And we had a great opposition to this. It was just unbelievable, the people who were against it. And I think it's safe to say that Dr. Rusten was very much against it. I'm pretty sure I'm correct on this.

GB: I was going to ask if you remember any of the discussion and who was for and who was against, just for the record.
AE: Bob Reeve was very much against it. Absolutely, and he's only just come around in the last year or so from what Dick just told me today, and realized that this is the right move. He finally switched over at the last minute, as a matter of fact. Bob threatened to withdraw all support, etc., from the Boone and Crockett because he didn't approve of it. Course his son did, cause Dick had been sitting in these meetings too. I would say that Bob Waters, Dick Mellon, etc. were all in favor, but this may have happened right about the time Dick Mellon died. I think it was. It was pretty much split. For example, Clay Frick was very much against it. I think that . . . I could be wrong. Sherman Gray was against it. So many of these people were.

And of course at this point we like to think that the Boone and Crockett Club was having a very strong influence on the changing, some of which got the NRA into trouble, I guess, last week or the week before. Trying to change the outlook of the NRA and get away from simply a wad cutting outfit to an outfit that could really support its total membership, not just target shooting and competition shooting, but really get back into promoting the sport with a rifle and firearms and more into conservation, into wilderness survival, because if you're hunter, that's hunter safety. You've got to be adept in the field. [There were] so many reasons why the NRA should join. I think Art Popham was even very much against this at one point.

GB: Well, getting into somebody that I know was really very much against it . . . Do you remember anything about the Douglas Burden situation?
AE: Well, that was a whole series. . . Yes, he was very much against it. Well you know, I never knew Doug Burden. I'm sure that others in this room know him better than I do. But I couldn't feel sorry for Doug Burden's approach, etc. because he never participated in the Club, and so many of these people who suddenly were out on a limb were people who had never been to a meeting and been heard. And suddenly they started to write memorandums to everybody and tried to get everybody excited about it, saying the Club was going off the wrong way. But they never showed and offered to do these things. They never showed and put up and said "All right, I won't come but I'll give you $100,000 to do this." In other words, their pockets weren't where their mouths were, or their actions weren't where their mouths were. And I guess that for years they'd been resenting something or something had been done, and I don't know. Maybe I'm wrong in what I'm saying and I shouldn't say it.

GB: Do you feel now that the co-sponsorship has worked out well?

AE: I think so, but you know how bitter I am about this meeting here. I think it's been very poorly done and I think this conservation meeting we've just come from indicates it. I'm not criticizing the meeting or Fred Pullman running it or the speakers. I think the program was fantastic. But what I'm speaking is these stupid name tags we all had. There wasn't one difference. I was marked as a guest. You were marked as a guest. Betty Fitz was marked as a guest. The nice man from California I introduced you to, his wife had exactly the same tag I had. If she wanted information, she wasn't going to
come to me. She knew what kind of a tag she had and she sees you and she sees me around with the same tag. That's why I walked up to these people and tried to introduce them. And I think this is such an important thing. These people have got to be made wanted and felt, and I am convinced that at this meeting here -- and it's no criticism of Harold -- it's criticism that he hasn't been given the right kind of input or thinking to this. But there should have been a definite different color with Boone and Crockett Club right at the top of it -- co-sponsor or something. Developer and co-sponsor. I don't care; it isn't the credit. But the public who come in here want to meet the people who run the show and do it. And it isn't the NRA. I saw people in there that didn't even have names written. They just had a tag on. Well, I don't think anyone should have the kind of a tag that I'm talking about except the members and their families of the Boone and Crockett Club and the members of the running committee of the NRA, the people who are in policy. I don't mean some clerk who's just been working in typing and she's given a tag to come to the meeting. I mean someone who can make policy decisions. That would be Harold, the board members of the NRA. The committee chairman or directors, such as Lady Gordon. These are the people that should have the special tags. I think the official measurers should have it. They should have a judge tag, with a red ribbon attached to theirs, whether they're NRA or B&C. There should be a tag down below - Judging Committee - Big Game Committee - Conservation Committee.

GB: So the questions can be answered.
AE: Yeah, and the same with the NRA. These people should know who they can go to and who they can ask. And if they see one and it says "Judge" on it, and they see a pink tag here and a red tag there, they're going to suddenly realize the red's NRA and the pink's, the blue's, the Boone and Crockett Club and they're gonna know the difference. The same way, someone in the Conservation Department of the NRA should have down [that] he's Conservation Department or he's Research Scientists or he's in charge of rifle loading or calibers or bores or big game loads or something, so these people can go and talk to people about their specific interest. Cause this is what makes your meeting.

GB: Well, aside from this meeting, do you think that the program itself has been carried out as well as the Club would like?

AE: Well, I think that this program that we saw down there was fantastic today. Course I would like to say here that it's not just political strictly, but do you realize that Bill Montoya couldn't have put that talk on if it hadn't been for Laddy Gordon? And Laddy Gordon was the brains behind all this and this is what I was trying to point out to some of the Boone and Crockett members. This fellow Laddy Gordon has more knowledge in his head than anybody and we are sitting here... We're all a bunch of -- I'm going to use the word gentlemen -- amateur sportsmen. There's a difference between amateur sportsmen and amateur conservationists whose full time living is developed somewhere else than a man like Laddy Gordon, who has been born and bred and brought up into
this stuff. Than a Grancel Fitz, than a Jimmy Clark. There's a difference between the
two and you need both of these within the Club. And as I see it . . . Sure, we've got
Phil Wright and Dr. Natelor - I don't know if you've met Natelor - Karen, I think, has met
Natelor. He's an M.D., but he's gone into bone marrows and genetics and he can tell
exactly where a head has been taken. This goes back to these transplants from the
museum that Fred Pullman was talking about. I'm sure if Natelor were to see that bone
marrow from the antler, he could tell that that antelope came from the Chicago Zoo.
From the nourishment, the type of food that's being [eaten]. I believe that he's . . . I'm
not in my field, but this is the kind of the thing that is understandable, which is fantastic.
What's he's done.

GB: This is changing the subject a little bit. Has the Boone and Crockett Club, to your
knowledge, ever taken a stand on firearms regulations?

AE: That's part of what our rules are. We aren't to take a stand on it but we're to aid
and abet and let people know what we're thinking, trying to direct. I think that's part of
our business, isn't it? Right in the front here [it says]: "To aid and preserve in the
proper regulations of hunting and shooting." Is that not right in here, one of the
bylaws? You've read this, haven't you?

GB: Do you remember anything about the Rampart Dam study in 1960? Well, it
started in 1964, I believe.
AE: Well, the great boondoggle. Yes, I do cause I can remember we had a meeting at the -- Lord, what's the Club where we always had our luncheon meetings on Park Avenue, 5th Avenue, Park Avenue? Well, it's immaterial. We had a meeting and I can remember we sat in the corner and we were discussing this after lunch. Present was Lawrence Rockefeller. I think Fair Osborn was still alive in those days. "Pink" Gutermuth was there; Horace Albright -- right, this all fits; Dr. Hammett was there, who was a former president of the Campfire Club and very heavily involved with the NRA; Richard King Mellon (Dick Mellon); Bob Reeve; and Frank Orth, the then president and executive director of the NRA, for your information. This does not have Larry Rockefeller here, so this must have been a different meeting. Oh, these were at the Leash Club. This was the one Mr. Mellon walked out of. Okay. We had an earlier meeting at which time we sat and discussed this. Larry Rockefeller said that he was very interested through the Rockefeller Brothers in coal, resources, etc. They had been one step ahead of the politicians. And my recollection was he said first of all -- and he had a report that he had paid for having done for the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation -- and it pointed out that to transmit electricity, assuming they could make it in Alaska, there were no known power lines that could handle the power that would have any juice left by the time they got down to the States. And it still had to be distributed in the States. And the one effort he had looked into was the taking of these coal mines, igniting the coal mines, and creating the power right out of the coal mines without having to mine it. In other words, pour water down, get the steam out, which gets to geothermal, etc. And I remember that was in the early days when we first talked
about it. And then we had this meeting, I think at the Leash Club, this must be it. January of '64; April 30, '64; January '64, at which this came up. And it was decided to retain Dr. Steven Spurr of Michigan, and this was mentioned at lunch, that we got involved in the Rampart Dam. But what they forget, we did not directly get involved with the Rampart Dam. This is for your lobbying business. We authorized $5,000 from the Club, and as Dick Mellon walked out the door he leaned over to me and whispered in my ear, "Put me down for $25,000," and it was that plus the $5,000 that set up Dean Spurr with a grant at the University of Michigan. Now Bob Ferguson can confirm this and maybe some of the correspondence can. So Dean Spurr, being picked as one of the most independent, a university, not under government control, not the Boone and Crockett Club, made an impartial study. This is different than our going out and writing to "We're the Boone and Crockett Club, we just proved this." And writing to all our friends. I don't think that gets us into trouble. But in this case it was an impartial group, a recognized research organization who made the study and came up with the conclusion . . .

[tape ends]

AE: I think that covers it.

GB: Well, one of the things I wanted to ask you about it was, this dam that was supposed to produce hydroelectric power, wasn't it in a permafrost area where it really literally would not work?
AE: It was in a permafrost area. It was also in the breeding grounds of the ducks, with all the duck flyaway that came down, I think, the Pacific Coast and down into Florida where it split. That I'm not expert on, but does that confirm Karen? Okay. And also I'm not sure of the economics of Alaska, but when you get up to Alaska . . . You can get Bob Reeve on this subject and Frank Cook very definitely.

GB: Now do you remember anything about the Padre Island National Seashore Bill and what the Club had to . . .

AE: No, I don't really.

GB: Dr. Gutermuth was involved so I'll . . .

AE: Dr. Gutermuth was also [involved in] the key deer area. That was a little earlier. I think it started earlier.

GB: He could give me a detailed accounting of the key deer if you'd prefer not. Now, do you remember anything about the predator prey study by Victor Cahalane?

AE: I do, but I don't remember that much about it. There were several predator prey studies made. It seems to me the University of Arizona also made a predator prey study. They made one on the feral burro, ring worm in the deer and a lot of . . .
GB: That was the sole study I believe. A study on wild burro and desert sheep.

AE: You would honestly . . . One of the nice things about being the secretary is you don't have to be an expert on anything.

GB: Well, it seems like the big horn transplant and those things - maybe Dr. Gutermuth would be the one?

AE: Well, the big horn transplant -- it might be Dr. Gutermuth, but it might be John Rhea. I think that happened under John Rhea's time. Delineation of ranges. Duncan Hodgson had an awful lot to do with delineation of ranges, elk I believe it was, in Canada, and if you run across that in studies.

GB: Not yet I haven't.

AE: And I would be sure you get Duncan Hodgson on a lot of this stuff. Duncan is very versed in this. I'm not. My hobby is just the Boone and Crockett Club, not the details.

GB: And incidentally, he's been active about 40 years too.

AE: Yeah. And Duncan can tell you stories like which nobody could ever forget or tell again.
GB: Okay. I wanted to ask you this because you all discussed this just yesterday. There was a Conservation Committee [meeting] held in Washington to discuss the entire field of conservation of wildlife forests, national parks and other wilderness preserves and particularly pending legislation on affecting topics such as the national game preserves in Alaska, when it joined the Union, the key deer legislation, Virginia Island National Park, etc. And I think this was the meeting that you and Mr. Rhea were discussing where you invited a lot of the government people.

AE: At the Cosmos Club. Well, today, for example, reference was made in the speeches on just the thing we are talking about.

GB: Well, the thing that I'd like you to get into for the interview a bit, is you were talking about the importance of keeping in contact with these people and I'd like you to say something . . .

AE: Well, I think very definitely. We used to try to hold these meetings in areas at times, which the Club is still doing (I'm just not active so I don't know). But, for example, the Club holds a meeting now and every year in coordination with the North American Wildlife Natural Resources, and that was all started by Bob Ferguson. Back in those days, when we felt it was so important to be in these areas when they were meeting because you had all the game management people and professional people, natural resource people, Russell Trains people, etc. We've done that. But historically
(and we talked about this yesterday), the Club concept is forum. It seems to me this afternoon was had a forum. It seems to me the bear business, this hunter program that is coming up in '78 here in Denver, next June '78, these hunter meetings, we hope, [will be] here in Denver. All of this is a forum discussion because it's behind locked doors. You're taking these different game management people from different parts of the country. Game Point I guess is the same thing, back where you started out.

However, we used to have these meetings and this Cosmos Club was an example. We had the director of the Forest Service, plus all the regional directors. I don't know how many there are. I think there are nine or ten or twelve. I think they've been cut down since, and some of the . . . for economy, for instance, they've cut the districts, made them larger.

GB: And the Bureau of Land Management . . .

AE: And the BLM, of course. We've had indication of all of this today in the meeting. I think our main purpose at that point was pushing Smokey the Bear into a pleasant sort of a grave. That's the wrong word to use. But just in our meeting today it came up how important burn is, and only after years . . . and as it came out they are now using burn because you're losing your game herds and this was dramatically brought out on the sheep situation here today.

GB: One thing I want to ask you about today. The comment that Lanny Wilson made
about the fact that that symposium got them thinking, and isn't this the kind of thing that the Boone and Crockett Club tries to encourage is . . .

AE: Yes. Until we got the big game problem off of our hands into the NRA, the Club's resources -- not only physical, mental, but financial -- were all going to keep the big game program going. Because in the early days it started -- and I can't remember when the first award that my father and I don't know who else ran that -- maybe Grancel's was the first awards banquet we went to in '39 . . .

A woman's voice: No, that was Doc Anthony.

AE: Harold Anthony. And they ran that, the first one. I think they had something like 30 heads entered to it. I don't remember.

A woman's voice: Well the first time I . . . 50 was the first show with the new scoring system. And they had 123 entries that met the minimum scores.

AE: But now you go up to dramatic numbers, but there were very small numbers in the first awards position -- 50 entries or something like that. Course there's an awful lot of discussion. This may be exactly the wrong thing for what was going on in this meeting down there, to pay someone $15,000. Look at this California Desert Sheep Association where they are putting up water tanks with tax exempt funds. And the gal and the guy
that were running this thing would go out with a gun and get a prime head and shoot it and sell it to somebody. You heard all about this didn't you?

So maybe this awards program isn't right. Then I hear a lot, but you need geneticists to tell you this, but it seems to me if you kill an old buck he's not, you're doing nothing but leaving more pasture for someone else. But some people say that the big bucks aren't necessarily the old bucks and they're still in their prime and can produce. This I don't know. This is later theory, but the original concept was that you took the old tired bucks that weren't doing any good out of the way and left room for the young to come in. I shouldn't be answering this. This is [for] the Conservation Committee.

GB: I'll get some other people on it. There's one thing that I wanted to ask you about, because you said you knew Francis Colby. Can you say a little bit about the Francis Colby Room at the Boston Museum of Science and how was it established and what was its significance?

AE: Well, Francis Colby. Someone like Dick Borden can fill you in more on Francis Colby. Bob Ferguson certainly can. Francis Colby. I don't know where my father knew him, but they were long, long friends. And I can remember back in the '20's in New York City when Franny Colby would come to our house after he'd come back from Africa, and he'd bring his films in. Of course, in those days it was a question of... I think it took a matter of months to get in on your safaris from here by the time you left
here and the time you got down there. And all these were black and white silent films, and he showed these films, and this would be '26, '28, I'd guess when I was nine, ten, eight, so I've always sort of known him in the background. And he had this fantastic house which I'd never been to, in Connecticut I believe it was. My father, I believe, was his lawyer, and they had many talks on this subject, but Franny Colby always wanted his game room preserved. So in his will he provided a certain sum of money, plus the game room, the money to go to whoever would accept the game room for the preservation and installation of it. The Boone and Crockett Club was the original number one on his list, which for obvious reasons we turned it down. The Museum of Science in Boston was number two. They took it.

That club room, if my recollection is correct, is available to any member of the Boone and Crockett Club at any time for any meeting he so desires, whether it be business or personal. The weapons in the room are available to any member of the club to take out and use to go hunting. We have had, to my knowledge, only one meeting up there, and that was when we met at Borden's house later that weekend. And that was before the museum was closed, closed in the roof, but for the purposes, I think, of meeting the bequest of the time limit, we held the dedication in that . . . and the Boone and Crockett Club . . . the Colby room was finished before the museum was. We went in there, walked through all the construction into this little island in the museum and dedicated the room that day. It's about all I can say.

Now Franny Colby could have been a very controversial figure, but I'm not in a position to give you anymore than hearsay and rumor, but there's reason to believe in
my mind only, that he was fulfilling a dual purpose on his safaris to Africa, but now Dick Borden might be able to fill you in, or Bob Ferguson. But it's my idea he was down there looking . . . I may be way off bat when I say the Mau Mau situation was a potential boiling over situation, whether he was representing the British government. . . . This is all hypothetical in my mind. I don't know. I think he did this but he may have been involved a little on the other side of looking over the political situation.

GB: Okay, to finish off, I was just wondering if you want to put anything on tape now about that type of thing.

AE: Well Kitty, you know I can't very well put anything on tape cause I didn't really write this. I have a real feeling that Bob Ferguson wrote it cause [when] you handed it to me the other day, I got down to the bottom I couldn't believe my signature was on it.

GB: I'd like to get it down onto the record the type of thing that Mr. Ferguson did to create that friendship feeling, that closeness and that unique aspect of the Club that his humor brought out and things like that.

AE: Well, the only thing I can say is Bob Ferguson is one of the few who can really never say anything that aggravates anybody, because of the way he says it. I am abrasive. I come outright and I insult people. But Bob Ferguson had a way of saying things that was just unbelievable in putting people together. My father couldn't do it.
Fairman Dick couldn't do it. Bob Waters could tell beautiful stories. They were long and lasted forever, but when you put Bob Ferguson together with Bob Waters and Dick Mellon and some of these people, really . . . And Duncan Hodgson, you can't leave him out of this. He's fantastic with words. And Bob was fantastic with words, but through words he got participation and got his point across.

I didn't really write this. I'm convinced in looking at it, this probably came 100 percent off the tape at a meeting as a quote, cause I put it in quotes, as you see here. And I did try to, after meetings like this, make after action reports. The copies were never distributed. I did keep them in the file for example, with the annual minutes. I'd stick them right in there, and I'd send one copy to Bob Ferguson, or the president of the Club, and one for myself. That was the only distribution. And this came from Bob's file?

GB: This came from the minutes. That was in the minutes.

AE: That's what I did. I'd try to do it in the original minutes file. But I never maintained the original minutes files. Miss Baker always maintained those in Bob's office. I do have a box of files and I can go back and look when I get back. If I'd been driving, I probably would've put them in the file and brought them up here. It's a box about this big. Anything I ever had was a duplicate because Miss Baker got a copy of everything we ever did. But now something like this I might have well had an annual meeting file. If I can keep this I'll remember when I get home to look in my box and see if I can find it. But I do not have my files beyond a certain point.

END OF INTERVIEW