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Peenemünde Interviews Project: Karl Heimbürg 11/9/1989 (Tape 1 of 3) A

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WEBVTT

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Today, they have created by far more universities in Germany. And now you have an unbelievable amount of academically educated people. Which, in my opinion, is not a healthy thing. But I see it only from the outside. I do not see it from the inside. And the discipline in school I do not regret either, you know.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: My dad simply said, "All right, I do not pay a second year. If you have the capability to do it, but don't want to, that's your business. And I pay one year." So I never repeated a course. And even in the school, they said they never had that, that a family of three boys and nobody, none of them repeated a year. But this was our dad. He was very clear and outspoken, "I pay only one year". This was not a threat. This was strictly a statement.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Mm-hmm. Was he as a forester, he was a civil servant of the state of Hesse?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: State of Hesse, right.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Ahm, OK. And so, did you have an inclination towards engineering before you went to the technischer Hochschule? Did you find yourself interested in technical subjects from the beginning?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: I was interested in technical subjects. You know, my eldest brother, he wanted to go in forestry, too. And my dad refused that. He said "Look, that profession is overfilled. So you will get your first paying job when you are at the age of between 30 and 35.

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And since you have brothers and sisters behind you I can not pay for that. Therefore you have to take a different, a different job." And therefore, he went into physics. But he did not want to go in the schooling. Therefore he went into industry. And just [[?]] accidentally he went into geophysics.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Geophysics.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Yeah. For example, he was here, in the United States, in Texas, for one year and they found two [[?]]

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And said ok, "You drill here. Here is a [[?]], here is a [[?]]".

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And he was in South Africa for four years. And he was in Russia during the war, in the oil fields.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Which was, the Second World War?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Second World War.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: So he was involved with oil exploration?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Yeah, oil exploration.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: And you, your, so you went to technischer Hochschule Darmstadt. And you become diplom ingenieur?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Diplom engeneur, right.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: In which subject?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Mechanical engineering. Just general mechanical engineering. And after that, I got a job at a coal mine. Not underground, but above ground, you know? Coal mines produce their own steam with the coal which they cannot sell. But the ash content is very high and
[[??]]

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job for above ground on a coal mine and I was there for about a year.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: 1928 - 1929?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: No, that's when I was at the teschnische Hochschule. 1928 to 1935. And 1935 to 1936 I was in the coal mine.

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: OK, I had, I had mixed up the date of your accept from Realgymnasium. So you started the teschisch Hochschule 1928?

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: 1928. In the autumn of 1928 after I had worked for seven months at the steel plant at [[??]].

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<i>Michael Neufeld</i>: Now, I have the question about the Praktikum that comes with German engineering education, because I am trying to learn more about that. Obviously, many people [[??]] did the same thing.

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<i>Karl Heimberg</i>: Strictly speaking, if you went into a technical field each college, or technische Hochschule, requested that you had to work practically. At the technische Hochschule you had to have a minimum of one year before your final examination. And at a college, you had two years before you had your final examination. And, as I mentioned, in my opinion, this is a necessity for engineering personal. And you, of course, saw that here--



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