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I was born in Chicago and grew up in the Chicago suburbs.

Since my father and grandfather were both very active in the briquetting industry, I was initiated into the world of briquetting while still in high school, working summers in the Komarek Greaves machine shop, and occasionally in the laboratory when an extra shoveler was needed.

Received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

After graduating, I worked in sales at Komarek Greaves for two years.

In 1968, I joined the start up company, K. R. Komarek, Inc. as the number three man in a three man company. This allowed me to become involved in all areas of the company from sweeping floors to research and development, machine design, and sales. I have been president of K. R. Komarek, Inc since 1982.

Joined IBA in 1979 and have been on its Board of Directors for the past 16 years, and had the honor of serving as president from 1991 to 1993.

I have authored numerous papers on briquetting and compacting and have given courses on these subjects to companies in the Americas and Europe. Our paper "Computer Aided Design of Roll Type Briquetters and Compactors", which I coauthored with Dr. Roman Dec, received the Neal Rice Award for the best paper at the 1991 IBA conference.

For me, the appeal of briquetting is its challenge and variety. There is something different about each project. Therefore, you are constantly learning and probing the unknown. Moreover, this field also seems to attract enthusiastic and creative people. Working with such interesting colleagues and clients to solve problems in our industry is a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

Professional Organizations: IBA, Society of Mining Engineers, Coal Preparation Society of America, Association for Iron and Steel Technology.

Hobbies: skiing, bicycling, and watching the Chicago Cubs.

Family: Wife, two daughters and three grandchildren – all skiers.