

Jefferson County Public Library
Oral History Project
Interview with Frank Gumaer, August 14, 2010.
Interviewer: Julie Melton

NOTE: The interviewer's questions and comments appear in parentheses. Added material appears in brackets.

(Sir, why don't you start by just giving me your name?)

It's Frank Gumaer, G-u-m-a-e-r.

(Great. Tell me again about when you rode the trolleys.)

Well, I was five or six years old which would've been probably around 1930, and we used to take it out to Golden, my mother and I.

(And how often did you ride it?)

Several times. I couldn't give you an exact number.

(And you rode to Golden? Golden to Denver?)

Right.

(What was the purpose for your ride?)

Well, we always went out there to join the family for dinner on Sunday.

(Do you recall how much the fare was to ride the trolley?)

No I can't. I imagine my age, being four or five, there wasn't much of a charge.

(And do you recall how long of a ride it was?)

Well I would say it was probably somewhere around an hour.

(Did you stop riding before 1950 when the trolley stopped, or did you ride it up until?)

No, just in the early stays [?].

(Do you recall when the trolley stopped—and the ease in getting around, commuting around Denver—was it easier or more difficult to do after the trolley stopped?)

Well as I remember, why—it started pretty close to the old tramway building. We lived in south Denver and took the Number 8 streetcar down or drove a car down into the area, and got on at wherever the downtown station was. I knew it was close to the old tramway building.

(So what was it like inside the car? Can you remember a little bit about that atmosphere?)

I think it was an upgrade from the normal streetcar, and I rode a streetcar a lot so I really can't give any particular details on that.

(Do you remember what it was like in the winter? Was it comfortable?)

Well, we usually went out there in the summertime. So I wouldn't, I couldn't recall what it would be like in the wintertime.

(Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experience?)

I can remember where they had _____ [3:33], and how they communicated I don't know, but I can remember how there was one place where they pulled over so the other car could go back into Denver. I don't know how they had that worked out schedule-wise because back in those days there wasn't a radio communication I'm sure.

(Well thank you so much sir.)

You bet.

[End of interview.]