

Tara Templeman 0:00
Start over.

Tom Peyton 0:02
Okay. I name is Thomas Peyton, it's September 5 2018. And I'm a volunteer at Broomfield Depot Museum along with Paul Tice here who's going to be asking me the questions, I guess.

Paul Tice 0:21
Okay, Tom, I'd like to get a little bit of background on on you. In what city were you born?

Tom Peyton 0:28
Yeah, I was born in Boulder Colorado.

Paul Tice 0:30
Okay. And and you live in Broomfield now what was your reason for leaving Boulder?

Tom Peyton 0:39
Well, I I lived in a mobile home in Boulder, which I had gotten from when my mom passed away. And I was sick and tired of scraping windows in the winter and I wanted a house with a garage. So I got ahold of a realtor who happened to be in Lafayette and she started showing me houses in Louisville, Lafayette, Broomfield and I happen to find this house on Sheridan Boulevard, small little house. And I decided to, to buy it because it was a lot cheaper than Boulder, of course back then Sheridan Boulevard, it dead-end right on 136th Avenue. That was 1982 when I bought the house. So basically, because it was cheaper to live here in Broomfield back 30-36 years ago,

Paul Tice 1:36
and I'm sure it is even more so today.

Tom Peyton 1:39
Yeah, for sure.

Paul Tice 1:43
What school did, schools did you attend,

Tom Peyton 1:46
let's see, in Boulder, I live in, did all my schooling in Boulder except for college and went to Washington Elementary School in Boulder and Casey Junior High and Boulder High School. And then that was 1966, Vietnam War was hot and heavy. And they were drafting everybody and Uncle Sam gave me a 1A rating meaning I was going to go in so I decided to enlist. So I wouldn't get into the infantry. So I was, had an interest in weather. So I tried to get into the weather where the nearest thing they had was artillery fire direction. So I got into that and went into the military. And then when I got out of the military, I said now what am I going to do? Because I didn't want military to be a career. I knew that by the third week. This isn't gonna work for me.

Paul Tice 2:49

And you did serve over in Vietnam, right?

Tom Peyton 2:51

Yeah, I did, serve one year in Vietnam. Yeah.

Paul Tice 2:55

And you lived through it.

Tom Peyton 2:56

Yeah. Unscathed. No purpleheart I could have applied for one because I did get injured but it was kind of a goofy engineer injury.

Paul Tice 3:10

Okay, we won't touch that.

Tom Peyton 3:12

Yeah. Okay, when I got out of the military? I said, gosh, what am I going to do? I saw this advertising 25 Careers You Could Learn in Two Years or Less so I decided to go into electronic technologies. That's what I did as a career.

Paul Tice 3:32

I did the same time but I didn't use it. Okay, do you keep in touch with any of the past schoolmates?

Tom Peyton 3:44

Yeah there's a couple I do, but not many and a couple still live in Boulder. Okay, most of them have all moved away.

Paul Tice 3:59

Have you ever been married or engaged?

Tom Peyton 4:02

No, never got married and got close a couple of times.

Paul Tice 4:06

She never caught you though.

Tom Peyton 4:07

That's right. I must have ran fast enough or something? I don't know. It just didn't work out.

Paul Tice 4:14

It's not for everybody.

Tom Peyton 4:15

There you go.

Paul Tice 4:17

So what jobs have you had? And in when did you have them and and where have you worked? And you know, since you got out of the service?

Tom Peyton 4:26

Yeah. Well, I had the two year Front Range Community College and I got an Associate Degree in electronic tech. So then I got a job. I was living in Boulder. I got a job here in Broomfield actually called Colorado Instruments. They were over on commerce street just on the other side of the street from a recycle center up the street a little ways. Now I think it's a shooting indoor shooting range.

Paul Tice 5:01

I know where you mean.

Tom Peyton 5:02

Yeah, that's where I started and then they moved to a bigger building on industrial lane, which was just a few months ago, the Nighthawk Brewery. They closed and their big claim to fame there was the owner patented a dome switch for making for keyboards and stuff. So they made a big assembly line for making calculators back in 1972. That's when calculators cost three or \$400 a piece

Paul Tice 5:39

They wouldn't do what a dollar-98 one does today,

Tom Peyton 5:43

They just add, subtract, multiply and divide I guess. I was a tech there and then I had various other jobs. In electronics you moved quite often because companies come and go so. A floppy disk company in Denver. People don't even know what floppy disks are anymore.

Paul Tice 6:01

I do. I'm old enough

Tom Peyton 6:05

And then I got a job back in Boulder is a called NEOMED. They made electro surgical equipment in competition with Valley Lab, which I think is still in business. But NEOMED went out of business and I went a year in Florida to a company helping them build electro surgical equipment. I came back and worked for Grandville Phillips for 26 years where they made ultra high vacuum measuring equipment. I was a technician there

Paul Tice 6:41

It sounds pretty tactical.

Tom Peyton 6:43

Yeah, it was yeah, it was kind of neat. That's when I retired. Yeah, I retired by then I was living here in Broomfield

Paul Tice 6:53

okay, you moved to Broomfield in what year

Tom Peyton 6:55

1982

Paul Tice 6:57

82? So you, you bought house you didn't rent it. Right?

Tom Peyton 7:01

Right. I bought the house that was kind of interesting. When I was working at Granville Phillips, there was another tech there. And his brother worked at Storage Tech, which

Paul Tice 7:12

I know where that was

Tom Peyton 7:15

And this was back in 1978, 79, whatever. And they said they had a little insider information. They said they were going to go public. They were a private company at a time they're going to go on the stock exchange. So I invested \$1,000 The day they went on to the stock exchange and it skyrocketed for about a year and a half, two years and I sold it for \$7,000. And that's money I used to downpayment on my house.

Paul Tice 7:44

That's the way you buy and sell stock

Tom Peyton 7:46

That's right.

Paul Tice 7:48

That was the old [Lansky] before it was the Storage Tech

Tom Peyton 7:52

That's right, Yeah. And then they built a big place out on top of the hill there and I don't know what's there now.

Paul Tice 7:57

I used to do some work at it. [Lansky]

Tom Peyton 7:59

Did ya, all right. Yeah. So that's how I got my first house. I was only going to live there about five years. Because I figured Sheridan Boulevard was going to get busy. Because it did end at 136th. There was no traffic when I bought the house

Paul Tice 8:16

But the way you had that street in front of your house that's not Sheridan is nice.

Tom Peyton 8:19

Yeah. Now a few years back they four lane Sheridan Boulevard and they made a frontage road. So that was nice that city did that. I was worried they weren't going to do that. But

Paul Tice 8:33

Otherwise, you'd have a devil of a time getting in and out of your driveway.

Tom Peyton 8:36

Yeah, I was only gonna live there about five years till I found a better place.

Paul Tice 8:40

That's a nice house.

Tom Peyton 8:41

It's been 36 years.

Paul Tice 8:43

Been there a few times. Very nice.

Tom Peyton 8:44

Yeah.

Paul Tice 8:45

It suits you.

Tom Peyton 8:45

Well, small little ranch. Yeah.

Paul Tice 8:49

So I I know that you volunteered in Broomfield because we volunteer at the depot Museum.

Tom Peyton 8:55

Yeah.

Paul Tice 8:55

But have you volunteered anywhere else besides that?

Tom Peyton 8:59

Yeah, I've volunteered it seems to be all railroad related, it seems like. I helped restore an old Denver Intermountain interurban trolley car spent over 5000 volunteer hours restoring that back to operation. It's at the Denver Federal Center right now, City of Lakewood now owns it. And then also volunteered as an operator for the Platte Valley trolley, which runs along the South Platte River in Denver. But I haven't done that for the last two or three years.

Paul Tice 9:38

And then you have done volunteer work at the National Park Service as well

Tom Peyton 9:42

that's right. Yeah, I forgot about that. Yeah. With the National Park Service volunteer on board, Amtrak train as a docent between Denver to Grand Junction.

Paul Tice 9:52

Okay,

Tom Peyton 9:53

so yeah, and, of course, I volunteer at Broomfield Depot Museum for the last three, four years

Paul Tice 10:00

coming upon four for both of us.

Tom Peyton 10:02

We both work together on that. Yeah. So like to enjoy that now.

Paul Tice 10:08

And so I Okay, you have a really good background in in railroads because you're kind of a railroad nut and that's that's that's a good thing and not bad thing. Okay. But how did you get involved with the with the Depot Museum? I don't recall

Tom Peyton 10:24

Yes. It's kind of nebulous to me too. I think I went to one of the Grange talks. And I may have known Jackie, maybe she gave a program at a railroad club or something. So she knew of me. And she was looking for volunteers, she happened to see me in the audience or some. So she, we need volunteers. You recruited me to help. depot museums? I said, sure. I'll do that.

Paul Tice 10:57

Okay,

Tom Peyton 10:58

so then that's when I started in fact, my first job was working with you at the library

Paul Tice 11:03
Separating all the papers

Tom Peyton 11:04
Sorting a whole bunch of papers in the date order,

Paul Tice 11:09
oh, it took a while to do that

Tom Peyton 11:11
took days, Yeah.

Paul Tice 11:14
Okay, so your activities here in Broomfield? Are you? With any groups, organizations outside of I know, they're any Railroad Club, your your, you know, that's I mean, Denver area, you

Tom Peyton 11:27
No, I'm like you a Silver Sneakers at the rec center. That's about it. Depot Museum. That i can think of anyway,

Paul Tice 11:40
between the two of us we stay relatively busy anyway. And I know that you've taken some really neat trips around the country. And tell us about that. Road trip every summer.

Tom Peyton 11:56
Yeah, I've been hooking up with this other guy who was a retired schoolteacher. So he's a good trip planner. So we do these driving trips. And so we've every summer we seem to be doing, like a two or three week driving trip. One year it might be out, drive to South Carolina to the Outer Banks and back and go to all different airplane Museum, railroad museums, car museums, whatever. In one year, went through Pennsylvania, hit all the museums in Pennsylvania. Last year, it was Illinois, took the Badger ferry across Lake Michigan. spent a few days in Detroit in a lot of those museums and stuff. So

Paul Tice 12:49
the Henry Ford Museum supposed to be really neat

Tom Peyton 12:51
Henry Ford, Yeah, it takes a few days.

Paul Tice 12:53
Good pictures doing that.

Tom Peyton 12:54

Yeah. So I've been doing a lot of socializing on that now.

Paul Tice 13:01

Any notable experiences on any of your trips? Surely. There have been some?

Tom Peyton 13:06

No, I suppose. Yeah, nothing really interesting. I tried to go see Cape Hatteras on Outer Banks of North Carolina that nights

Paul Tice 13:16

and the road was washed out.

Tom Peyton 13:17

Yeah. When they had a big tropical storm was coming through. So we gave up real quick turn around.

Paul Tice 13:25

Well, I've been there, my wife and I've been there many times, not many, a couple of times. And I know that there's one road that goes through there so that road gets shut down.

Tom Peyton 13:33

Oh, yeah. You can see the water on both sides of the road

Paul Tice 13:36

You are in deep doo.

Tom Peyton 13:37

So that's probably the scariest I've been on. Yeah.

Paul Tice 13:43

Okay, since you're living in Broomfield all these years, how's Broomfield changed since you moved here?

Tom Peyton 13:50

Yeah, it's gotten real busy. building more and more houses up to the north. It's getting very crowded. So and living on Sheridan Boulevard that's really changed considerably

Paul Tice 14:07

Big time it has even since I moved here in 2004.

Tom Peyton 14:10

Yeah. Cuz like I say it. It dead ended at 136th Avenue when I started and I remember commuting into Boulder to my job at Granville Phillips, I would go down Dillon road and Dillon road was a little gravel two lane road. Nobody drove on it because nobody knew about it.

Paul Tice 14:32

Unfortunately, they know now.

Tom Peyton 14:34

Everybody knows about Dylan road now. Yeah. Yeah, traffic is definitely but it's still a nice town. They lots of parks. A lot of hiking trails,

Paul Tice 14:49

Amenities are fantastic. So I take it you plan on probably staying here and not moving out.

Tom Peyton 14:56

Probably not. Each winter. I keep threat I said I'm gonna move to Arizona or somewhere warm

Paul Tice 15:04

the summers are terrible

Tom Peyton 15:05

Yeah, that's that's what keeps me if I had enough money I'd be a snowbird and have two places but I don't think that'll happen

Paul Tice 15:17

yeah unless you have another rich uncle that you don't know about who's really old and is gonna die

Tom Peyton 15:22

leave me a bunch gives me a bunch of money Yeah.

Paul Tice 15:26

Darn guy is already dead and gave it somebody else right?

Tom Peyton 15:29

That's right apparently doesn't know anything about me. Yeah

Paul Tice 15:36

well, anything else that you'd like to add Tom?

Tom Peyton 15:40

No. Can't think of anything right all I think for just about done

Paul Tice 15:48

okay.

Tom Peyton 15:49

What the heck

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