

Transcription "Introduction to Lucien Houde and his Connection to the CN 2747" excerpt of Lucien Houde full interview.

Lucien Houde

Yes. My name is Lucien Houde. I was living in The Pas, Manitoba. In 1954 and in 1956, I joined CN. And in 1957, they brought the three locomotives to The PAs, the 2747, 48 and 49, and I worked officially as a brakeman on the 2747 in 1957. So that's my connection to the 2747.

Alanna Horejda_Museum Curator

And what does a brakeman do?

Lucien Houde

OK, a brakeman is, it's two things 1- A brakeman. when you're on a freight train in those days they I was what they call the headend brakeman I used to have to ride in the locomotive. And when we came, we had to meet another train, and take the siding. I had to go and turn the switch manually for the the our train to take the siding. And then when the train went by and we went out at the other end of the siding, I had to go open the switch, which was manual so we could come out. And then the the the, what did they call them, the the the brakeman there was a brakeman in the caboose as well. His job was to turn the switch to when we got back on the on the main line. So that was my job mainly you know it's if we met a train and we had to let's say, the, the train was too long for the siding and we stuck out on the main line. I had to walk a mile out in the winter time and go and stop the train. So to tell him we we were there, you know it was. So it was, and I remember being out there at the 4:00 in the morning and I could hear Timberwolves it wasn't very pleasant.