

This interview is of Ulrich Gaede who is a historical narrator on the *M.V. Native* and the *Beta Star*, boats operated by the Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours, in New Westminster. The major themes discussed are changes on the Fraser River and his work as a commentator. The interview was conducted while the boat was underway.

Interviewer: Leigha Smith

Interview Date: September 21, 2013

Date Range: 1980s – 2013

Sound Recording Length: 00:09:53

Ulrich Gaede is a commentator/narrator on the two boats that Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours operates, and has been with the company since 1990. Ulrich Gaede grew up in Finn Slough, in Richmond. He dropped out of high school in grade 10 and worked as a taxi driver for a while until he decided to take a short vacation. When he came back he was asked by his neighbour, Captain Bill Harvey, if he could help out as a deck hand for a day, and he has been working on boats ever since. When Gaede is not working for Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours he repairs yachts.

Section 0:00 – 1:11

- In this section of the interview Gaede discusses his job with the Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours. Gaede is one of the historical narrators on the *M.V. Native* and the *Beta Star* and does other small tasks as needed. When he is not working with the company, he also repairs yachts. He has worked off and on for the company since 1990.

Section 1:12 -- 4:27

- In this section of the interview Gaede describes the changes he has seen on the Fraser River and explains how he started working with boats. Changes include the winding down of the wood processing industry, the closure of mills, and the decline in commercial fishing. The infrastructure has changed, he states that “things on the shoreline appear and disappear.” Gaede describes of how he was introduced to working on boats by his neighbor, Captain Bill Harvey, when he lived in Finn Slough in Richmond, B.C.

Section 4:28 -- 6:48

- In this section of the interview Gaede describes the topics he likes to present in the narration for tours. He states that he can figure out what is going on the Fraser River by looking at it, and has a preference for talking about the industrial changes he has witnessed. For his material, he likes to look things up; if there is something new he goes on the Internet to read about it or looks in books.

Section 6:48 -- 9:53

- In this section of the interview Gaede talks about his relationships with coworkers and discusses the changes he has witnessed in terms of condominium building along the Fraser River. He states that all of his coworkers are friendly and are great people to work with. In regards to changes in New Westminster, he is not sure whether the transformation of the River Market has been for the better or worse, as he recalls the market being more vibrant when he first started on the waterfront. He says that his job with Paddlewheeler Riverboat Tours has been steady and enjoyable.