

SUMMARY

Project Title: Sweetwater County, Wyoming Migration Stories

Narrator: Curtis Martin

Address: P.O. Box 193, Farson, Wyoming 82932

Interviewer: Rosalie Bennett

Address: P.O. Box 34, Farson, Wyoming 82932

Date of Interview: March 12, 1992

Length: 20 minutes

Location: Takes place in the home of Curtis and Sandra Martin

Other persons present: Their granddaughter, Tarin and their dog, Tinker.

Description of interview setting: Curtis and Sandra Martin's home is two mobile home trailers converted neatly into a very nice home. Curtis tells of moving to the area, acquisition of properties, he tells of his feelings of small town advantages and disadvantages. Curtis also tells a few stories about the Farson area and some of the traditions in his leased out business. He also talks about the advantages to his children in moving to this area.

After living in the Riverton area for many years, Curtis Martin owned a hardware store in the Lovell, Wyoming area. When his brother needed help in the construction business, in Rock Springs, Wyoming, Curtis, with his wife, Sandra and their family moved to the Sweetwater County area. Shortly after arriving there, they acquired all four corners of the Farson intersection, consisting of most of the businesses in the valley. These include a general store, service station, cafe, bar, trailer court, laundromat, cable T.V. system and buildings leased out to the United States Postal Service and Soil Conservation Service.

It was an exciting challenge for Curtis and his family to take on "owning a town"! He considers living and working here a learning experience and a stepping stone for something in the distant future. He wouldn't necessarily change his mind about living here, except when he thinks of retirement. He doesn't have family ties here and he feels home is where his family is.

Curtis feels they have made many improvements to their businesses, although much of it cannot be seen because repairs were made underground. Farson is different from the Lovell area due in part to being unincorporated. He is not real happy about some of the advantages and disadvantages this brings about.

The "boom" didn't really play a part in the Martin's moving to this area, but the advantages of a bigger school system did, as their children were becoming school age. At this time they also acquired a roller skating rink, which enabled them to be with their children. This was an important part of their lives, to have their children involved in activities that were keeping them off the streets.

After all of their children graduated, Curtis and his wife moved to Farson to keep track of the businesses here. There is a lot of work involved and things you don't normally have to think about in a normal job. Curtis tells a few anecdotes about incidents that have happened in his time in the Farson area. One concerns a person they nicknamed "Flaming Arrow". Another story talks of Bud White and the fishing pond. He also talks of the popularity of the general store, (which he leases out), and the amount of ice cream that it sells and some of the traditions surrounding it.

When asked if he would have done things differently, Curtis says he doesn't believe in second guessing himself and he does not feel he made a bad decision in moving to Sweetwater County. He also hopes that when he leaves here, he will be remembered more for what he accomplished and contributed than what he took from here. This is an important sentiment to him and why a person is what he is and does what he does.