

## Summary

Project Title: Sweetwater County, Wy. Migration Stories

Narrator: Diane (Gypsy) Foster

Address: Farson, Wy.

Interviewer: Kathie Roghair

Address: Eden, Wy.

Date of interview: March 4, 1992

Length: 42 minutes

Other persons present: none

Description of interview setting and content:

I interviewed Gypsy in her house at her kitchen table. She talked about why her family moved out to Farson, Wy. from Bridgewater, Mass. in 1982. She also talked about the changes and adjustments she has made since then.

Diane (Gypsy) Foster moved out here on May 11, 1982 from Bridgewater, Mass. Originally she and her family had planned to locate in Rock Springs but since the boom was still on and no trailer spaces to be found, they located in Farson. The reason they moved out here was because the economy was so bad back in Mass. Gypsy's husband came out in 1976 and loved it. So they made a five year plan to move out here. They all came in November to check out Rock Springs before they moved, to see if they would be able to adjust. It was not a big surprise to them after they had moved here. He was able to get a job working construction, driving truck.

Her first impressions were that it was not so different than

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the small towns where she had grown up. At the time they moved here, economically it was at the end of the boom. The oil field workers were moving out. They were glad he had a job. They have more financial security here. Wages are lower here, but again so are real estate taxes. Food is basically the same but everything else back east was a lot higher.

Socially, it was very difficult living here. People did not want to get to know outsiders. Physically Farson has made a few improvements with the school, curbing, and with Weed and Pest, but basically nothing has changed in ten years.

It was quite a culture shock moving here. There is not much going on in Farson compared to back east. They do have more security living here as far as crime. Back east they entertained a great deal. New Englanders are not very adventurous, usually living within ten miles of where they grew up. Towns are five or six miles in size, where here people own property that size. It was hard for her to adjust to the size of properties people owned here, but she can see now it has its advantages.

Gypsie can't get anything to grow here which is hard for her to adjust to since she enjoys gardening. She tells a story about a garden that they tried to grow.

It's hard for her to accept the changes, like Farson being so small. It's a better environment here for the kids though. Crime

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was bad back east since they were living in a college town.

Holidays are very hard for her here. She tells how they celebrated holidays back east with lots of friends and family. Nobody celebrates holidays here. Culture change is a lot different. Back east they have oceans, green grass, trees, and tall buildings. They would ride down to the ocean during the spring and fall. During the summer they used their backyard swimming pool because it was easier than fighting traffic.

Gypsie would take the kids into Rock Springs to the civic center, one weekend roller skating and the next weekend swimming. That way they could still have activities they were accustomed to. Opportunities are limited here for kids. It amazed her that some kids growing up here have never been very far from the valley.

It was not difficult for her to adjust to the drier climate but she couldn't handle the humidity when she went back east last year. Lifestyles are very different. People back east don't understand her now, and people here have never understood her. Terminology is different in both places. She is more western in her ways now. Her interests are ceramics, flower arrangements, and painting. She has taken a lot of classes and has enjoyed them. Some of her other interests include gardening (which you can't do here), and having a pretty yard with things to do in it like volley ball and croquet. They take day trips up to the

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mountains where they picnic and fish. Her husband has also taken up hunting. She has learned to cut and cook wild meat.

It is difficult to live here because there are families that have lived here for generations that do things as a family unit. Back east, several families would do things together. She misses the social gatherings. Mothers prefer to work here, whereas back east mothers raised their kids. Changes like that she finds difficult.

The only problems with crime they have experienced have been with dogs disappearing. Nothing has happened to them personally, or to their household. She doesn't have that fear living here that you do living back east. You won't get jabbed with a needle here. She would listen to reports on police scanners back east on things happening in their neighborhood which just doesn't happen here. She has peace of mind here.

Changes here in the past ten years have been in the school, a lot of people moving out, and people who have lived here all their lives are accepting newcomers easier. There are more people settling in on more permanent terms.

It was easier for Gypsie to meet people and build relationships with those who have moved here from another area. Right now she could take it or leave it living in Farson. They have security of a job and owning property. She doesn't know what

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they will do in another five years when her husband retires. For security reasons they will probably stay here.

Lifestyle is different now that the kids are gone. They are not so tied down, they can go more places and have fun. She doesn't have to be taxi anymore, driving kids all over. College classes are available here which her daughter took advantage of while still in high school. Financial burdens are lighter now. Their lifestyle is a lot different from the ranchers, which are most of the people out here.