

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #58 - Side B

Subject: Martha Houston Sherman

Place: Bend, Oregon

Date: March 20, 1991

Interviewer: Edward Gray

Release Form: No

EDWARD GRAY: ... talking about the Sherman Ranch and Bill Brown.

MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN: Yes.

EDWARD: On March 20th, 1991.

MARTHA: It was fun to live out there.

EDWARD: You were pretty isolated though, really, weren't you?

MARTHA: Well yes, we were. But ... people all around us. There was a lot of homesteaders.

EDWARD: Let's see, 1906, you were married in 1930?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: When --- you and Calvin stayed with Charlie Sherman and his wife?

MARTHA: Well, they lived in town with the girls.

EDWARD: I see, okay. And you and Calvin would be out there ---

MARTHA: And we were running the ranch, and they always went to town in the winter and stayed.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: While you guys were out there by yourselves?

MARTHA: Yeah. Uh huh. And the little homestead house, did you see it while you was out there?

EDWARD: I don't think it's there anymore.

MARTHA: What?

EDWARD: I don't know if it's there anymore, Martha.

MARTHA: Oh yes it is, it's the little bunkhouse. It was brought in after they quit having school out there. We towed it into the lower ranch.

EDWARD: Was that this one, Martha? (Shows photo)

MARTHA: Yeah, that's it.

EDWARD: Yeah. And that became a schoolhouse for your daughter and son?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There weren't very many kids around, were there?

MARTHA: No, there weren't. But ... Sherman was, he was a progressive man, he liked to do things, and he had ... out there.

EDWARD: That would be Charlie Sherman?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: His wife was Effie?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you guys --- who bought all that land that Bill Brown owned after he left? Do you know, Martha?

MARTHA: No, I don't. There was several people that --- the GI was a big place. And my folks come out to the GI after they were --- well it was --- they were married in North Carolina, and then

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

they came out. Then my oldest sister was born in Prineville, and they took her out there and got blood poisoning. The mother got blood poisoning, and the girl died. She was at the upper end of the GI. It was just one of those bad ones, and --- So then we, my dad homesteaded over toward Post.

EDWARD: Right. Tom, Tom.

MARTHA: Yeah, Tom Houston. And I was born out there. And that was --- my twin brother and I.

EDWARD: Your twin brother?

MARTHA: Uh huh. Well, he died.

EDWARD: Oh, I see, okay. I didn't know that.

MARTHA: He died after a little while. And they held his body for me, but I'm still a going.

EDWARD: You're still going. What kind of --- what did Fred Houston do for Bill Brown?

MARTHA: Oh, he rode horses, he helped break horses. And well also, Sumner and Frank --- did they tell you about them?

EDWARD: No.

MARTHA: Well they were cousins of mine; they were Charlie Houston's kids. And they were good riders and all that. My family pretty much settled in that area.

EDWARD: Well there were, there must have been Houston's all over.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There was hundreds of you guys.

MARTHA: Yeah, there was a lot of us.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: But when --- see mother was a schoolteacher, and she taught up at, up around at the

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

head of the river.

EDWARD: Now your mother was, what was her name, Martha?

MARTHA: It was Sallie.

EDWARD: Sallie Houston.

MARTHA: Yes, Sallie Houston.

EDWARD: And where did she teach?

MARTHA: Well, she taught lots of places.

EDWARD: Oh, kind of all over.

MARTHA: No, not too much at town, in the country, country schools. Rode horseback to school and all that.

EDWARD: Tom Houston, well wait, wait, wait. Did you have a brother named Tom?

MARTHA: No.

EDWARD: That was just your father?

MARTHA: What?

EDWARD: That was just your father?

MARTHA: Just my father.

EDWARD: Did your father ride for Bill Brown too?

MARTHA: Yeah. He had worked for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: And then you had your father, and a brother Fred Houston, and another brother ---

MARTHA: John Houston.

EDWARD: --- John Houston.

MARTHA: John was an inventor.

EDWARD: Did he ride for Bill Brown too, John Houston?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: No.

EDWARD: Oh he didn't?

MARTHA: No, he was a tall, tall gangly man, and he only lived to be in his 20's. He went down to work on his inventions, and he got TB.

EDWARD: Did Fred Houston --- he broke horses for Bill Brown?

MARTHA: Yeah, some.

EDWARD: And where did he do that at, do you know?

MARTHA: Over toward Burns, and in that area, Hardin, and back towards Burns.

EDWARD: Glass Butte, around in there?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, I see. Now Frank Houston was ---

MARTHA: Was a cousin.

EDWARD: --- a cousin. He worked for Bill Brown, and what did he do, do you remember Martha?

MARTHA: He was quite a buckaroo.

EDWARD: I heard he was one of the best.

MARTHA: Uh huh, he was. He was just quite a buckaroo. Frank and Sumner, and they were the older boys. And they were whole blood. But see my folks came in, they was --- Dad was out here and he went back and got, and took a bunch of horses. And he and Mother was married while he was there. So then he come out, well she came out.

EDWARD: From North Carolina?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Boy that must have been, they must have come out real early.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Well yeah they did, in the 1800's.

EDWARD: Yeah 1880's, 1870's, probably, right?

MARTHA: Well probably around in that area. I wouldn't say it for definite, because I don't know.

EDWARD: But they were one of the earlier settlers.

MARTHA: Yeah. And that was, places were just settling then.

EDWARD: How did you guys live when you were young? Like you were 5 or 6 years old, you didn't have a big house did you?

MARTHA: We had a house up at, oh ---

EDWARD: Maury Mountain?

MARTHA: It was, yes, I was born on Maury Mountain. So that dated that. And then it was all settled just like, you know, just homestead size. And then they would stay there and sell when they got where they could.

EDWARD: Yeah, when they proved up they'd sell out.

MARTHA: I didn't.

EDWARD: No.

MARTHA: I married my job and stayed with it. (Laughter)

EDWARD: Did Fred Houston; do you know how long he worked for Bill Brown?

MARTHA: No, I don't. His wife might know.

EDWARD: Blanche?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: And she lives in Prineville?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: But he must have worked with him a long time.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: He did. Then they were married while he was working, I think --- no, yes I think he was working for Bill Brown when they got married.

EDWARD: Did you ever go over to Bill Brown's Buck Creek Ranch house?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: That two, big two story?

MARTHA: Yeah. I've been through it two or three times.

EDWARD: Was he there then, Martha?

MARTHA: I don't remember.

EDWARD: Was it ---

MARTHA: It was a nice big house.

EDWARD: Yeah. And it's still there.

MARTHA: And he had kind of a store, and he sold to the homesteaders.

EDWARD: Yeah. Was that store there then?

MARTHA: Well, when Fred was married?

EDWARD: When you went over to the Buck Creek Ranch.

MARTHA: Oh yes, it was the big house I wanted to see.

EDWARD: Was Bill Brown living there when you went ---?

MARTHA: He wasn't there at the time.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: But he was a good man. He was a real good man, and he was good to people.

EDWARD: Did Fred ever mention anything about people stealing from him?

MARTHA: Oh yes. That was common!

EDWARD: I ---

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Fred didn't steal.

EDWARD: No. None of the Houston's did.

MARTHA: No, they weren't stealers.

EDWARD: They didn't do that. Did they, did like Fred and Frank Houston, and Sumner and Thomas Houston, did they work all year for Bill Brown, or just part?

MARTHA: I think Dad just worked part, but I don't know. Mama taught school up there, and she rode horseback and took the little ones with her to ride, to go to school. I think John went to school.

EDWARD: Was schooling real important to the parents?

MARTHA: Yes, it was. Schooling was very, very important to the country, to get it settled.

EDWARD: You remember going to school, Martha?

MARTHA: Oh yes, I do. I can remember clear, that far back. I went to school at Powell Butte.

EDWARD: Oh.

MARTHA: We had moved out of this country, and then we was down in the county.

EDWARD: Well, how did you end up meeting Calvin?

MARTHA: Oh, I don't know. Well, I do know. He was just in and out of town, and I knew who he was. But one night when I was going home from school he just got in step with me and walked me home. And then from then on we --- that was it!

EDWARD: That did it, huh?

MARTHA: Well, he decided to keep, wanted to put a woman on that lower ranch. And Lila had worked out there, and all of my people, and he knew me by that. So we was married, and that was it.

EDWARD: That was the end of it. What did your --- Lila and your, what did she cook for the

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

cowboys, what did they eat?

MARTHA: Oh beans, and meat, and she was an awful good cook.

EDWARD: A lot of bread?

MARTHA: Yes, she made her bread. And they'd get food in, and they --- one day she got mad and was going to go, leave, and so she said she didn't like what was going on or something. And anyway, stayed all day and went back and went in to cook supper. (Laughter)

EDWARD: How many people would your sister have to cook for?

MARTHA: Oh, I don't know how many. But she had a lot of people to cook for. And before I ever moved out, why before I was, ever knew Calvin really, I went up to this ---

EDWARD: Hardin?

MARTHA: No. It was on out at the Buttes. It was ---

EDWARD: Glass Buttes?

MARTHA: Yeah, it was out in that area.

EDWARD: Was it just, was there any cabin, or was it just out ---

MARTHA: Yes, there was a cabin.

EDWARD: Oh, there was?

MARTHA: There was a cabin there, and she cooked for them. And she was a good cook.

EDWARD: Where did the buckaroos stay, just in tents?

MARTHA: Yeah, tents. But there were little cabins too.

EDWARD: That was on Bill Brown's property?

MARTHA: That was when she was cooking for Bill Brown.

EDWARD: Did Lila; did she cook for Bill Brown's cowboys for a lot of years?

MARTHA: Oh, quite a while. I don't know how long.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: Did she ever marry?

MARTHA: Oh yes, married Charlie Keith.

EDWARD: Charlie Keith, that's right.

MARTHA: Yes. And I just went to one of her boy's funeral not too awful many months ago.

EDWARD: How many --- did you, when you and Calvin were on the Lower Sherman Ranch, and the Upper Sherman Ranch was at Williams Reservoir ---

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: --- did you ever cook for those ranch hands?

MARTHA: That's what I was there for.

EDWARD: That was it, huh?

MARTHA: That was it. We had an awful bad house at the upper place, and it was --- It was not a good house, is all. Is it on here?

EDWARD: I think so, I thought it was. I don't know. Oh yeah, but this isn't the real picture, you can barely see it. Is that the one Alice Delore tore down?

MARTHA: I don't know if Alice tore it down or not. Did she tear ...

EDWARD: I think so.

MARTHA: Well, I wouldn't have blamed her.

EDWARD: I think she tore it down for firewood.

MARTHA: Well, probably she did. But see we built it --- finally we built a house up there.

EDWARD: Oh, oh.

MARTHA: And you saw that white house back in there?

EDWARD: Was it the, was it the stone one?

MARTHA: What?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: Was it a wood house?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah, I think ---

MARTHA: No, I'll take it back, it was a, oh kind of stone.

EDWARD: Block, cement block.

MARTHA: Block, uh huh.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's still there.

MARTHA: Yeah. And I cooked there too.

EDWARD: And that was the Upper Sherman Ranch?

MARTHA: That was the Upper Sherman Ranch.

EDWARD: Yeah, they still use that.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: They have a generator, and Earl McConnell uses that.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: But before that one you were in this old Williams' house.

MARTHA: Yes, in the old Williams' house.

EDWARD: Right.

MARTHA: And that was a doozy! But we was trying to put a ranch together that would be a valuable ranch, and we got it.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did you run, did Calvin and --- Well did the Sherman Ranch use the Upper Sherman Ranch for winter range, or summer?

MARTHA: That was summer range.

EDWARD: All summer range.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: And that went out, way into the timber. And we would go out and ride. One time I got into the yellow jackets, and the boys was going, and you just had to go when they went. And I was, my hands was swollen so I couldn't hardly bend them.

EDWARD: They'll chase you.

MARTHA: Well, they was there when I was --- I was intruding I guess.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah, oh they get mean.

MARTHA: Yes. And we had the buckaroos out there, and the boys all just get their plate and go way out, to try to get out of the yellow jackets.

EDWARD: Yeah, they get all over your food, and all over.

MARTHA: Uh huh, oh yeah. Yep. And we got a --- And by the way Marva was real tiny, had a ... and she, one day we had a truck ... a fire truck there. Calvin was determined she was going to be a driver. And so he told her to get in the car and ... in that truck, and bring it to him. And she was so little, that she couldn't see ---

EDWARD: Over the ---

MARTHA: Oh, out over the steering wheel.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: And she'd have to get up and look, and then go down and --- It was, they took it down, she took it down to him.

EDWARD: She made it.

MARTHA: Huh?

EDWARD: She made it, huh?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: It's a wonder she didn't go off down one of those hills down ---

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Yeah. Well, but Daddy wanted the truck, and the truck went down. One time I was driving, and I didn't drive a lot because I had bad eyes. And so I missed --- well the stringers coming across the cattle guard, you know, I missed it just a little and I went down in the cattle guard.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: She was a little ... but she says, "Daddy is not going to be very proud of your driving."
(Laughter)

EDWARD: You never forgot that, did you?

MARTHA: No, that was the cutest thing. And we had a good, we had good men. Our men were real good.

EDWARD: Did you have people staying with you during the winter, cowboys?

MARTHA: Oh yeah.

EDWARD: Quite a few?

MARTHA: Well not too often, not during the ---

EDWARD: One or two?

MARTHA: --- oh, three or four.

EDWARD: Three or four.

MARTHA: At the lower place. And then after the children started to school, I stayed at the lower place in the winter.

EDWARD: Okay.

MARTHA: And we had a buckaroo place at there, just out of the timber where we gathered the cattle, and put them in there. And that was for all the people. So one day, why Marva was up there with the other boys and she was riding, and now mind you she was about, oh three or four years old,

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

just --- But she was riding. And so she got up out there, and the boys, the kids wanted to go to camp where I was a cooking. And so the bigger kids said they were going to go. And Marva said, "I'm going too." And our foreman just lit out as hard as he could fly, trying to get to where there was a real sharp curve. And she was riding a ... He just knew that that kid would be dumped there. Well he said, "Well Martha when I got there, she was just whipping the horse to make it go faster." She was in the lead, that was the whole deal. She knew she could outrun them, and she took it on.

EDWARD: She had a lot of guts.

MARTHA: She had a lot of what it took to run a ranch.

EDWARD: I bet you she might miss that, huh?

MARTHA: She was good with a horse.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: Just real good.

EDWARD: Does Marva have any horses now?

MARTHA: No, they don't have any.

EDWARD: Huh. What can you tell me about, you remember Merritt Peacock?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: That was Alice ---

MARTHA: Yeah, and he was killed there.

EDWARD: Yeah, he was shot.

MARTHA: Shot, killed.

EDWARD: Shot by that Darrell Walker.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Do you remember Darrell Walker?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Yep.

EDWARD: He was only 18 or 19 years old, I think.

MARTHA: Well, he wasn't any older than that.

EDWARD: No. What kind of kid was he, Martha?

MARTHA: Well, they took him out to school, and all that, his dad did. So that was good. And he enjoyed life, but I think that probably --- in their conversation, that Alice must have mentioned something about him, you know, that wasn't going good, and so he just shot him.

EDWARD: Huh. Yeah, he was at a sheep camp.

MARTHA: Yeah, at Mills sheep.

EDWARD: Yeah, Mills sheep camp.

MARTHA: Yeah, their...

EDWARD: Which is now on the Grindstone Ranch.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: What about --- now the Walkers had a homestead up there, didn't they?

MARTHA: Walkers?

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: Yeah, Darrell Walker.

EDWARD: Darrell Walker, I think his parents had a homestead next to Alice.

MARTHA: Yeah, I think so.

EDWARD: I don't think there is anything left though.

MARTHA: Oh, well ---

EDWARD: There might be.

MARTHA: Actually there isn't. There wasn't when we were out there, some of it --- Their land

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

wasn't valuable.

EDWARD: Was it too high in desert?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: That is pretty high country.

MARTHA: Yes, and the hunters would go up there and hunt around in that area.

EDWARD: Do you know Alice still lives in that house by herself?

MARTHA: Yeah. Yes, and I don't know why she stays there.

EDWARD: I don't know.

MARTHA: I wrote and asked her one time to come and live with me. We could have lived in my little house ... So I --- Calvin was gone, and I thought if Alice would come we could make it.

EDWARD: She doesn't --- she wants to stay there. I talked to her last summer, and she doesn't like all the people, and all the cars, and she just likes it by herself up there.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: And her spring went dry.

MARTHA: Her spring went dry? What did she do?

EDWARD: I don't know.

MARTHA: We can sympathize with her...

EDWARD: Yeah, your well went dry. What about Ike Mills, what did, did you ever hear anything about Ike Mills?

MARTHA: We liked Ike.

EDWARD: Was he a pretty tough guy?

MARTHA: He was at one time, I think.

EDWARD: Oh, one time.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: I think he shot a man.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: But I got a kick out of it, Marva was there, she was --- I took her right out with me in the buckaroo ...

EDWARD: You took Marva out in the buckaroo camps.

MARTHA: And Roy too when, until he got in school. Anyway, I had Marva there, and he was teasing her.

EDWARD: Ike Mills was teasing her?

MARTHA: Yeah. And so she went and got her, him some cookies. We'd take cookies out for ... So Ike said, "Well now that you give me some of your cookies, I'm going to give you some of my money." And he did, he shoveled out some money to her. They all thought a lot of Marva. She was a, kind of an easygoing child. We went to Mills Ranch quite a bit.

EDWARD: That's, the Mills Ranch, the Upper Mills Ranch is still standing.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: There is not much left, but it is still standing.

MARTHA: Yes.

EDWARD: What's your thoughts, Martha, now you lived that life, and the Houston's all lived that tough life up there taking care of cattle, and so forth. And a couple of Houston's died from diphtheria ---

MARTHA: Yes, a couple cousins of mine.

EDWARD: Cousins, Arthur and ---

MARTHA: Edelem and Arthur.

EDWARD: Edelem, yeah. And they're in my book, my second book too.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Oh yeah?

EDWARD: Yeah, I got a letter from Van Houston in there explaining that. But what are your thoughts on the --- the sheep men versus the cattlemen.

MARTHA: I think that there is room in the world for all.

EDWARD: Why were they always fighting amongst one another?

MARTHA: The range. The range --- now my folks, as far as I know, never were in one of those battles.

EDWARD: I don't think so.

MARTHA: I never heard of it. My dad liked the people, and he liked the animals.

EDWARD: Cattle or sheep?

MARTHA: Yes. He was just as much a sheep man as he was a cattleman.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: And then he bought in out at Powell Butte. So I've got my leg broke the first day of school, the first or second. Anyway, why I'll never forget that old teacher. He had me down --- took my sister Lila and Alice McNeal was trying to make me walk. And I had broke it!

EDWARD: Did you fall off a horse?

MARTHA: No, it was his daughter, they had come by our house and brought us kids to school, the teacher had. And so his daughter was going to hand me out to Lila, I was little.

EDWARD: Oh, little.

MARTHA: Yeah, I was just a little --- I was just barely 6. And so in the shuffle my foot got down between the brake rod and they took me over and it broke my leg. And we had to stay there, the teacher made us stay until afternoon.

EDWARD: What, with your broken leg?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Yeah. I don't imagine the kids done much studying; I bet you I was a bawling.

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: And when he handed me out to my mother --- Mother said

--- or he said to Mother, "Some kids can't stand a pin scratch." And Mother said, "Well her leg is broke," she felt it. See later on Mom ... So then they had to send down, Fred --- Fred went down.

EDWARD: Fred Houston.

MARTHA: Uh huh. Went down and got my dad. And my dad come and went, and phoned for a doctor. So he was, it took quite a few hours. And so ... but they had to go over to a neighbor to a phone.

EDWARD: They had a phone though. That was at Powell Butte?

MARTHA: Yeah. So that's how that got done. And I --- my sister, she was a sweet little thing.

And so when the doctor came out, when he come out to see me, he'd always bring me gum and stuff like that. She was only 2, but she saw that she was missing out. She went and got a stick and took it to Dad and told him to break her leg too. (Laughter)

EDWARD: So she could get candy?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well, I know that the Houston's, because there was so many of them ---

MARTHA: Yeah, Uncle Charlie's family, I don't know how many there was. There was an awful big family. And there was six of us.

EDWARD: Yeah, but they had a bigger family, I think, Charlie.

MARTHA: Yeah. Huh?

EDWARD: I think Charlie Houston had a bigger family than that.

MARTHA: Oh yes. Oh yes.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: Did you ever hear while you were up there, and seen some of the old folks, and talked to them about any sheep herders being killed over there in your country, like on Grindstone Creek, or

MARTHA: Yeah, I do it. It was --- I think that's where probably that Mr. Mills got into it.

EDWARD: Do you remember where Grindstone Rim is, Martha?

MARTHA: Yeah, pretty much.

EDWARD: Way up, way up there. And the creek goes down to the bottom down there. Did you ever hear of anybody running sheep off Grindstone Rim?

MARTHA: They tried to run some sheep off.

EDWARD: You heard of the ---

MARTHA: What?

EDWARD: You heard of the Izee Sheep Shooters and all those guys, didn't you?

MARTHA: Yeah, I've heard of it.

EDWARD: Yeah. I wonder ---

MARTHA: The Izee was quite a ways from us.

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah. Even how the bird flies it's quite a ways. And the Paulina Sheep Shooters?

MARTHA: Well now I don't know about the Paulina Sheep Shooters. But that could have been where Mills was, I don't know.

EDWARD: Congleton?

MARTHA: No, it was sheep --- Mills was a sheep man.

EDWARD: Yeah. Did he have cattle too?

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Yes.

EDWARD: Both.

MARTHA: Yes. He and the rest of us all camped together, and all rode together. And we'd go and set up a camp, and I'd stay in camp and cook.

EDWARD: Did you ride to camp by horse and have to bring everything in by horse?

MARTHA: No, no. We always managed to get a wagon in.

EDWARD: A wagon, okay. Brought everything in on a wagon?

MARTHA: Yeah. And then we had a, had all the things like that. And oh, it was sheep in camp, the cattle camp that I was in.

EDWARD: Which do you like best, cattle or sheep?

MARTHA: I preferred cattle. But that was just my preference.

EDWARD: Did they have to take --- how did you guys sell cattle from the Sherman Ranch? Did people come and pick them up, or ---

MARTHA: Well, I'll tell you how we got rid of the 100 head, just before we was, we sold out.

Some people come in and they hauled them right out through, by the kitchen. No, that was Gus.

EDWARD: On a truck?

MARTHA: Yep, they trucked them out.

EDWARD: Oh, they put them on a truck.

MARTHA: Yeah. And they went over the Idaho line, and they couldn't do much with them. So we just dropped it.

EDWARD: Oh, they stole them!

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Oh, okay, I see.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: They stole them and hauled them --- well you know how that road comes down there?

EDWARD: Yeah, yeah.

MARTHA: And right around the house and on out. And they went into Idaho.

EDWARD: And you and Calvin are going --- there goes your cattle right out.

MARTHA: Yeah. Well, we had several hundred head. But then the fellows from the Mills Ranch come over and wanted to buy us out, and we just sold.

EDWARD: Just sold the whole thing?

MARTHA: Yeah, just sold it. And Calvin didn't want me to take anything at all. But I said, that don't count. Well, hi ...

MAN: Hello Grandma.

MARTHA: But that didn't count with the --- You know, we'd take furniture and all that.

EDWARD: Yeah, oh yeah.

MARTHA: So I got in there, and I hunted around and we took out a load.

EDWARD: Who did you guys sell to anyway, Martha?

MARTHA: Oh, we sold to Mills.

EDWARD: Mills.

MARTHA: Yeah. It wasn't Mills, it's ---

EDWARD: Hudspeth?

MARTHA: No, not Hudspeth.

EDWARD: Not him, huh?

MARTHA: It was, well I forget who the man was. But he was a good man.

EDWARD: You sold all 50,000 acres?

MARTHA: Yep.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: Just --- then came over to Bend, huh?

MARTHA: Yeah. We had done a lot of business in Bend anyway.

EDWARD: Do you recall how much money you got for that 50,000 acres?

MARTHA: I don't have any idea.

EDWARD: You know they --- this Bill Smith just bought the Grindstone, 37,000 acres for ten million.

MARTHA: Ten million. Huh! And the Grindstone Ranch, it's amazing.

EDWARD: Do you believe that?

MARTHA: Yep.

EDWARD: Hard to believe. Ten million dollars!

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: I don't know, I don't understand it either.

MARTHA: I can't see it.

EDWARD: No.

MARTHA: But more power to him if he can do it.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well that's --- anything else about Bill Brown? Remember anything else, Martha? He never married. Did he ever carry a gun?

MARTHA: What?

EDWARD: Did Bill Brown ever carry a gun?

MARTHA: I don't know. I didn't, I didn't go too much for Bill Brown. I liked him, he was a good man. But our lives was cattle.

EDWARD: All cattle. And he was a ---

MARTHA: They had sheep and cattle.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: He had mostly --- he was almost all sheep, wasn't he?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Did you guys ever get in a fight over who's range was what?

MARTHA: No. That's senseless.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well, Calvin was a good man.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. What's your best memories living on the Sherman Ranch?

MARTHA: Oh, it's just being part of it, it was part of it.

EDWARD: That's a big ranch.

MARTHA: Huh?

EDWARD: That's was a big ranch.

MARTHA: It was a big ranch. And Leroy, our boy, was there. He was, oh he was just a kid, and he bought, or he shot a deer. And I think what fixed me was that guy that he wanted to, Leroy to give him his deer. And he said I had the head mounted, and I'll do this, and I'll do that. He was a big shot from over from the valley. And he never done any of it. He took the deer --- or I let him have it. But he didn't ---

EDWARD: Did you guys eat a lot of deer meat?

MARTHA: Not a lot. We preferred ---

EDWARD: Steaks.

MARTHA: --- steaks.

EDWARD: Yeah. And we couldn't see why he --- of course at one time Grandpa --- Leroy was a little guy, not too much more than 6 or 8 years old, and they went up and there was a deer in the potato patch. And Grandpa said to Leroy, he says, "Shoot that deer." The kid killed it.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: Leroy did?

MARTHA: Yep. He was just little. But that old house that we lived in was a wonderful place, was ...

EDWARD: The Lower Sherman Ranch?

MARTHA: Yeah. No, on the upper one.

EDWARD: Upper one.

MARTHA: Upper one.

EDWARD: Before you built the block one.

MARTHA: Yeah, yep, that was a doozy.

EDWARD: I bet you had mice and everything else.

MARTHA: Oh yes. We made a ... it wasn't anything to write home about.

EDWARD: Probably holes, and ---

MARTHA: Oh yes.

EDWARD: That's gone now, I guess. It's all gone.

MARTHA: Yeah, I think that's the one Alice got.

EDWARD: I think it is too. I think it's the one Alice just ---

MARTHA: Well she ... to take it.

EDWARD: Yeah. Well where she is at, her firewood is far and few between.

MARTHA: Yes.

EDWARD: Still can't believe she's up there. She must be --- horrible in the winter.

MARTHA: Oh, I tried my best to get her to come out and live with me, but she just couldn't do it. She wanted to save that for her grandchildren.

EDWARD: Oh, I don't think her grandchildren care.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Well that, there is just nothing.

EDWARD: And it is right in the middle of all the GI Ranch now, you know.

MARTHA: Oh, is it?

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: Has the GI Ranch got that?

EDWARD: Bought that, yeah.

MARTHA: Huh, I didn't know they had ---

EDWARD: Yeah.

MARTHA: --- reached out that far.

EDWARD: They bought all of that.

MARTHA: All those acres in between.

EDWARD: Right, and the lakes.

MARTHA: Yep.

EDWARD: They own that now.

MARTHA: You see we built those lakes.

EDWARD: Yeah, that's what Marva said.

MARTHA: Yeah. And one time she was little, just a kid, and there was some fellows down there shooting on the lake. And so she didn't even hesitate, she just took off down there. She went down there; she told them it was posted land. Well, they was friends of the Bergers. She says, "Well that's no feather in your hat, you can't shoot the animals on our place." And she run them off, and she was just a kid.

EDWARD: Now, all those roads into there now have locked gates on them.

MARTHA: Yeah, they have been since, oh ... locked gates.

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

EDWARD: Did you guys ever lock, have locked gates? I didn't think so.

MARTHA: We never had a locked gate.

EDWARD: Oh, they're locked now with rolling locks.

MARTHA: Yeah, we took people up there and let them look. You see from up on the rim there, back of the winter place, you could see over 12 miles of our ranch.

EDWARD: Beautiful, beautiful.

MARTHA: We loved it. I was glad that I got to be the one that...

EDWARD: What was your scariest time ever?

MARTHA: Huh?

EDWARD: What was your scariest time up there, or were there any?

MARTHA: Oh, when there was a bad fire ---

EDWARD: Oh boy.

MARTHA: --- and the cattle was running ahead of it.

EDWARD: Like a grass fire?

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Those almost had to be --- did they go out by themselves, or did ---

MARTHA: Well, the men had to get out and help.

EDWARD: That would be --- yeah. Who did you sell your cattle to, Martha, while I'm thinking about it? Anybody?

MARTHA: Oh, we sold to --- it was a man from the Mills Ranch.

EDWARD: Oh, he's the one that ---

MARTHA: He took the, yeah he just took them lock, stock, and barrel.

EDWARD: Every year, like ---

AV-ORAL HISTORY #58-B; MARTHA HOUSTON SHERMAN

MARTHA: Well, when we sold it lock, stock, and barrel, that was all.

EDWARD: Oh, I see, I see. That Mills Ranch was pretty big too, wasn't it?

MARTHA: Yes, it was. And those Mills was good company, good, you know, he helped you anywhere he could.

EDWARD: Yeah, he had a big stone house down on, by Beaver Creek.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Big beautiful place. And then his upper ranch --- yeah he had two places.

MARTHA: Yeah.

EDWARD: Yeah. I got, let me go --- Well this is about done.

(END OF TAPE)

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