

Jim Sheble, interview 7 July '82, Valier

- 2--Shebles moved to Ben English place in '39; 2988 acres; 1000 sheep  
12--leased 3000 a. on resvtn, on Birch Creek
- 28--sheepcamp meat that wdn't spoil: homemade ham or bacon; he'd butcher as many as 10-12 hogs and cure the meat.
- 35--provide "whatever they asked for, within reason"  
--wd move wagon "to another knoll" every Sunday  
--45: 3-4 sacks salt/wk
- 48--sheets made from salt sacks; print very hard to bleach out--soak it in lye, stamp it with "clothes stamper"; 80: 7 salt sacks per sheet; coarse
- \* →64--herders used kerosene lanterns, sturdier than lamps if tipped over  
--68; gallon ~~can~~ of kerosene each week
- 71--hailed water in wooden kegs
- 90--Long-Cleary stock co. of Browning  
--95: ran 50,000 sheep  
--98: Jim went to work for them in '27; except for 1 yr, worked till '35  
--~~Jan~~ 110: most of land from Ht Butte to Chf Mtn, out 20 mi. from mtns; leased  
--Resvtn land: \$40,000 @ 10¢/acre  
--118--ran sheep in summer bands of 1200 head
- 122--groceries came in by train until '31, when truck was used to haul frm Gt F
- \* →132--herder's ration, 3 cans of corn, peas, etc/week, because Indians might rob  
136--winter, Jim butchered 3-12 broken-mouthed fat ewes for meat

140--Long-Cleary hq on Badger Creek, 1st ranch w. up creek from highway

--143, lambing hq abt  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mi. up Two Med from bridge

--146--Parkhurst place, another hq, 5-6 mi. down the Two Med

--147: another hq on Cut Bank Creek

150--these "headquarters," ranches they bought, had sheds, etc.; camp tenders worked out of them, Jim supplied the hqs

152--main hq was Pendergrass place, near Browning/Cut Bank highway Y

164--Charlie Wilson, bro. of one of partners, was straw boss at Badger Creek

174: " was the only married foreman, and he married late

→ 178--wintered sheep out on pasture in stockades; ~~the~~ climate milder from east of Blackfoot--along a line south from B'foot to highway. Badger Creek place wasn't too bad for wintering, either; 4-5 bands of 2500 wd winter there west of highway, the rest east.

191--had some hay on hand, "a little insurance"; otherwise, in those days there was enough grass to graze thru winter

→ 198--during 18" snowfall, Jim rode to Badger Creek and had hay hauled to sheep on 2 blind panels used as go-devil sled; panels of spruce, 3' wide, 14' long.

→ 220--dry fruit pies: apples, apricots, raisin, peaches

226--Long-Cleary breakup: Dep'n hit, Chamberlin died, Wilson and Cleary fought; they split the holdings, Cleary finally gave up; Wilson lasted, but then bought Chamberlin's holdings at Stanford.

238--L\*<sup>C</sup> owned each hq land, ranches that'd gone broke in '19.

246--house on Parkhurst place was mansionlike, built by southerner

259--hq w. of Two Med bridge was Shoo Cat place

269--some herders wd wear someone else's castoff clothes

286--Long-Cleary didn't run sheep on Nat F; Hamilton outfit had the NF range west of resvtn; Hamilton hq was not far north of Birch Creek; ran 15,000 head; Johnny Matchett gd source on Hamiltons, sheared there, worked there.

→ 319--Tommy Larson used to trail sheep to resvtn; And Guy Miller, of Miller Colony site

→ 339--Wash'n sheep outfits had "farther east" resvtn pasture; shipped ewes and lambs "feeding en route" to Chicago, thus no charge on lambs; in fall, continue the shipment with the ~~the~~ lambs, and send ewes back to WashN as "feeders"; in effect, shipping half the sheep for no cost. (check and clarify this before using)

378--ranchers dealt with Dupuyer store on annual basis, paying when lambs were shipped; storekeeper would give them "\$2-\$3 worth of candy" to take home to kids

387--Jim owed Sullivan as much as \$1200 some years, \$600-\$700~~0~~ to John Wall in service station.

414--ready labor in Dupuyer, such as Joe Smith and Fred Groh

457--bought the place I worked on for \$20,000. "a place to light"

471--bought 100 head of cutback (under-sized) lambs, 50¢ apiece.

478--Jim's parents homesteaded between Pendroy and Bynum

→ 494--growing up at Pendroy, J noticed cowmen sleeping under wagons when they shipped stock, but sheepmen would party for 3-4 days; he figured the money was in sheep. a week;

520--sheepmen included: Dave and Les Cooper, on Dup Crk

549--control of land rested on having the land along coulees with water

557--J's father arrived in 1903

593--George Porter ranch, near Pendroy, was only one in area before homesteading

605--at J's farm where I worked, drilled 300', got salt water; Jimmy still hauls water to 5000 gal cistern.

638--dust storms at Pendroy when he was in school: cdn't see ranch a mile to n.

645--1916 homestead boom

682--Valier farmers came to Resvn with dressed hogs for 3¢/#

692--Shebles married in '37

700--J began hauling coal from mine between Valier and Pendroy; 730, bought truck for \$150; cd haul 5 tons/trip to Browning; had 100 ton order from Sherburnes, 75 tons to Ht Butte school dist

765--roof of mine no more than 4' high; miners crawled on hands and knees.

An 8" ~~rock~~ vein of gd coal; abt 14" of muck, and another vein. Kellogg, the owner, pd \$3/ton wage. He had feud with neighboring mine owner, Ortell, a German who hadn't fought in WWI as K had; K wd drink, argue with Ortell, then cut his price of coal 50¢, taking it out of miners' wages.

1--as many as 20 miners, each avging maybe 3/4 ton/day; J bought 5 tons/day  
28--when rr was built to ~~Coram~~ Pendroy, horses were used, but a setup of steam engine and cars filled coulees, and there was a steamshovel on the job.

→ 37--3-man surveyor crew boarded with J's folks summer '17; rr reached Bynum in '13

44--survey line was run between Pendroy and Glacier Park

79--Ann's parents had homestead and desert claim at Fairfield; J's too

100--sheep shearers: Sprinkle from Pendroy, and Johnny Matchett; 113--Johnny wd go south to Nevada "and shear back", with jobs in Mont lined up for April or whenever.

121--Dup Crk rancher lost all his sheep due to a May shearing

128--12¢/head shearing

138--J trucked mine supports--to trade for coal--from nr Lake 5; burn area from Coram to E. Glacier ('29 fire, or 1910?). Ur wd truck lumber or fenceposts if anybody wanted; wd sleep while coal was being loaded, or pull over beside road, wake up cold, stiff.

154--15 Aug., start hauling coal for school dists; then other customers till Xmas

164--white cedar at Coram; good red cedar, you have to go to Idaho or maybe Libby

ENDS AT 175

Jim Sheble interview / 7 Jul '82

Hans Koski - "that" he ad play accdm

wore a spot in kind of in shp wagon stamp's foot in time to music

Jim ~~Sheble~~ Sheble

during lambing time

- feet sore in overshoot, slept in shp skin in shed during shift as

→ night man; when cold woke him up, would go collect the fresh drop of lambs.