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### Marva Hagood Sansing, Oral History Index

Marva Hagood Sansing

Louise Skinner

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# Interview with Marva Hagood Sansing conducted by Louise Skinner

March 6, 2020

## Index

00:00:01	Introductions and general Information
00:00:39	Born in 1942; lived on a cotton farm north of Cooper on a "black mud road". Family drove to Cooper once a week.
00:01:29	Father [Elmo Dewitt Hagood] farmed all of his life; mother [Vergene Bowen Hagood] got a teaching degree after they married and became an elementary teacher (Marva chose to teach high school and junior high)
00:02:03	Parents' families also from this area. Father's family – Marva's paternal great-grandparents married in 1882 – [John M. Hagood] and [Julia Moore Hagood]. Paternal grandparents were Frank Hagood – [Born 1883] and [Alta May Hagood - born 1888, listed in 1940 census as Alta May Hagood and Alta May Larson] (who was Charles Alfred Larson's daughter – the Larsons were from Sweden; the Hagoods came in 1870 from Tennessee).
00:04:43	Mother's family – mother [Vergene Bowen Hagood] was born in Roxton in 1910, the oldest of 5 children; family moved to Oklahoma about 1916 – grandfather [James Edward Bowen - died January, 1918 in Choctaw County in Oklahoma] had relatives there – story of his death from appendicitis in 1917 and her grandmother's [Mary Jane Ellis Bowen] predicament, being left with 5 small children. She and the children came back to Roxton, and she eventually remarried and had 4 more children.
00:10:35	Great-grandparents Hagood first lived in Enloe, which was part of Lamar County then. Great-grandfather, John M. Hagood, eventually became a Vice-President of Delta National Bank.
00:13:44	Stories of the Hagoods as bee keepers.
00:15:24	Memory of family house being moved to Cooper when she was 8 or 9. Grandfather Frank Hagood retired from farming, began selling plants. Marva learned about planting, setting up a greenhouse, etc.
00:17:29	Father, Elmo Dewitt Hagood, went to school in Enloe, then went to high school in Cooper in the 1920's. Mother sold Worldbook Encyclopedias and Father enjoyed reading them.
00:20:00	No REA at their house on FM 128, but her family had a generator to provide electricity. Stories about ways to use old glass battery jars learned from her father.
00:23:05	Got her love of reading from her mother – read children's books her mother brought home from the library at East Texas State Teacher's College.
00:25:09	Stories of being a child in the Hagood family with close aunts, uncles, and grandparents
00:26:00	Hagood Great-grandparents – John M. Hagood and Julia Moore Hagood – had 11 children. Marva's grandfather was their oldest child –Frank Hagood. Story of John and Julie Hagood moving from Enloe to Hagood Hill about 1920. John found a warm "sulphur" spring on the hill – devised a tank to capture the gas to heat their house.
00:33:40	Great-grandparent's house was built on Hagood Hill about 8 – 10 years after Grandfather Frank Hagood married in 1904. Great-grandmother Julie Hagood died in 1960. Stories about Julie.
00:38:35	Story of going to a parade in Hugo when Marva was 6 or 7 years old and being inspired to learn to walk a 55-gallon barrel. Stories of kids creating their own entertainment.

00:42:30	Comparison of children's play then and now. So many safety limitations now may also stifle creativity.
00:47:10	Story of getting a bicycle on her 10 <sup>th</sup> birthday
00:50:40	Story about visiting Grandma Julie in the house on Hagood Hill at Christmas—description of the house plan and furniture
00:53:40	Stories of Christmas with Grandfather Hagood and Grandmother Hagood. Grandmother (a Larson) followed Swedish traditions. Grandfather took kids to buy fireworks.
01:00:00	Story of Christmas with maternal aunt and uncle in California.
01:02:10	Started school at age 5 at Crossroads School when the Texas legislature passed the Gilmer-Aiken Law that allowed small school districts to enroll slightly underage students to help the district enrollment. Fellow first-grader at the school was Glynana [Steward] Stockton Herrin. Description of Crossroads School and notable happenings. Crossroads teachers – Jessie Mae Ellis and her sister Miss Earl Ellis. Put on a play "Goldilocks"
01:11:20	Went to East Texas State College/East Texas State University. Description of dress code at the time.
01:14:30	Graduated college in 1967. Began teaching - dress code for teachers at the time. Enjoyed Delta County students – were still rural & interested in farming/ranching. Description of programs in Cooper ISD at the time. Was disappointed when vocational classes were slowly phased out. Is pleased it's making a comeback now.
01:21:40	Later years as a teacher – remembers first computers in the schools. Worked for IBM traveling to schools training teachers on software programs. Stories of meeting people in other states who had ties to Cooper, TX, i.e., Melton traveling Skating Rink, and Jerry Holcomb's niece. It's a small world!
01:35:40	Words of advice to future generations – "Any advice you get from me is worth exactly what you pay for it – just live, and don't worry about it. Keep learning"