



McDonald, Leslie and Gilbert Stuart
Interviewed by Polly Adema

1. History of gin (00:40)

L. McDonald: It probab-it's probably been here since, what, 1940s, Mr. Gibb?

G. Stuart: I imagine so. Yeah, at least.

L. McDonald: Alan's granddaddy had it awhile before we had it and he's been dead probably twenty seven years.

P. Adema: Was he the first owner of it?

L. McDonald: No, um-

G. Stuart: It was a company, wasn't it?

L. McDonald: It was-it was several farmers that owned it together.

P. Adema: Was it cooperative?

L. McDonald: Right, then, um, Mr. Hubbard-Mr. Hubbard's daddy bought it out.

P. Adema: Mr. Hubbard is, Hubbard McDonald?

L. McDonald: Right.

P. Adema: And did they also-they're a farming family as well as owning the gin right?

L. McDonald: Right, we farmed cotton.

P. Adema: Um hum.

2. Processing the cotton (02:02)

G. Stuart: We'd weigh it here on the scales giving 1,500 pounds a bale-this is what we'd pick up, [bale and cotton]-

L. McDonald: Seed cotton.

G. Stuart: Seed cotton.

P. Adema: Seed cotton meaning it still has the seeds and-

L. McDonald: Right-

P. Adema: thresh on it?

G. Stuart: Then if he has six bales on that trailer or five bales we'd give him that many tickets. Pull it on out to the gin. And gin it.

L. McDonald: And when the cotton's heavier, they'd usually run around a 700 pound seed weight on a 500 pound bale and then the-the excess would be trash, you know?

P. Adema: Um hum.

L. McDonald: To make up 1500 pounds.

P. Adema: Um hum.

G. Stuart: And the soon they get it picked, the better off they are.

L. McDonald: It's heavier.

P. Adema: The better quality cotton it will be?

G. Stuart: Better quality, more weight.

L. McDonald: See later on it might take 760 pounds of seed or 800 pounds even to make the same weight bale.

P. Adema: Hum.

L. McDonald: So, it-it gets lighter.

P. Adema: And as it goes in this first stage, the seeds go off into the....what do you call it?

L. McDonald: We have a seed house.

G. Stuart: Seed house.

P. Adema: Seed house.

L. McDonald: And um, when-when they're ginning it um, the [lin] is separated, the trash goes out to the trash house we showed you out back and the seeds go to the seed house.

P. Adema: Um hum. And where do the seeds go from the seed house?

L. McDonald: We either ship them to the old mill or to the dairy. Or to a broker and from there they go to dairy farmers.

P. Adema: And once the bales have been wrapped in their yellow heavy duty bags-

L. McDonald: bagging

P. Adema: And tagged.

L. McDonald: Um hum

P. Adema: Where do they go from that truck?

G. Stuart: They go to the warehouse.

L. McDonald: We ship them to a warehouse and then essentially we're through with it.

P. Adema: Is the farmer through with it then or does the farmer negotiate with the warehouse?

L. McDonald: The farmer negotiates with the-the broker, whoever he decides to sell to.