



Henrietta Snype

Interviewed by Dale Rosengarten

1. The purse basket (00:32)

H. Snype: Now I made a purse one time that I, um... said to myself that I wanted to make like a shopping bag that had loops in it. Then I would go to the store and get the ribbon and run the ribbon through the loops and then tie a bow at the side of the purse. I think I had three like those this summer.

D. Rosengarten: Mmm hmmm.

H. Snype: And that was something new too because when they look at it they say, "Well I've never seen this kind before..." So I say I've come up with something new.

D. Rosengarten: Right.

2. Occasionally gives baskets as gifts (00:49)

D. Rosengarten: Do you make any specifically for gifts to give people?

H. Snype: Yes, uh huh. I make little jewelry boxes, like if I know a friend who's got birthdays or weddings, I make little small boxes. And friends who are visiting the Charleston area, little souvenir gifts you know.

D. Rosengarten: Yeah.

H. Snype: Little small gifts.

D. Rosengarten: That's a, that's unusually generous. Most people that I ask that question...

H. Snipe: They don't give...

D. Rosengarten: No way. (Laughs)

H. Snipe: No, I do give mine away. I feel that if you give it away and your basket leave Charleston, that's a good stem for you right there. You know? I've had a lot of friends that I give baskets to, whenever they get back to whatever state they're going and their friends see it, hey look they call me up on the phone and say, "So-in-so's

got a gift shop and she wants X- amount of baskets. Could you make some?" So I feel that when you give something, you're going to get it back in return.

3. Her dependence on her basketmaking tool (00:35)

H. Snype: It's just like you know, it's become a part of me and if I lose this, I just feel lost. One day I misplaced it and I was a wreck, all day, because I couldn't find it. Everybody has a specialty and I think that spoon handle is my specialty; I will not have it any other way.

D. Rosengarten: You have to really watch out for it.

H. Snype: Right. It's not the same even if I'm, you know, I'm weaving and I'm concentrating on "Well this is not the right tool that I'm using here." This is what I'm thinking and you lose interest. I lose interest.

4. How long it takes to make baskets (00:33)

H. Snype: Depends upon the size and the shape, you can make a basket in a day if it's a bread basket and if it's like a medium sized basket, it takes three to four days. And um, a real large basket, like that piece I have right there that was in a museum, about three and a half weeks. So it really depends on the person themselves too.

D. Rosengarten: Right.

H. Snype: And what kind of mood you're in.

D. Rosengarten: And how many hours a day are you talking about?

H. Snype: About six hours a day.