

John Derrick explains about his baskets

1. Learned from his father (02:09)

J. Derrick: I learned it from my daddy, learned it from him when I was between twelve, eleven or twelve years old, back in between '31 and '32. I learned it from him and when he used to make big... they used to make, he used to make big corn baskets, we called it. Really what he made were corn baskets and I started helping him and I learned from him. Well, he very seldom ever made a... nothing but a corn basket or big basket. Not unless someone asked him to make a small basket or something like that. He, he made, made a couple of straight baskets or made a few rounds but he never did... his goal was to make the big baskets. So that's really the way I got into it Back during the Depression days, right along those times... The Depression started in 1929, you know, people had chaps, they had to make a living any way by hand or craft, what they could do to make a few dollars. Well, most of the people in the country would farm and use the baskets for picking up corn, cotton, peas, and anything that had use for that basket. That was one of the things they'd really use at that time was spit white oak baskets. See that's really what the purpose of baskets was. There weren't many people in the country at that time that didn't have some kind of basket or some kind of cotton basket or maybe a feed basket of some kind. But used at the gin, you unloaded off the wagon and out it through the gin by basket mostly. So baskets were used a whole lot at that time.