



Barbara McCormick

Interviewed by Dale Rosengarten

1. Places to find the materials she uses to make baskets (00:46)

B. McCormick: Mostly right now, we used to get it from Kiawah Island and Seabrook Island, but now after they built up around it so much and you can't go in there unless you have permission. But now we go down to a new area in Savannah or before you get to Savannah. It's called Hollyville.

D. Rosengarten: Hollyville?

B. McCormick: Hardeeville.

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B. McCormick: And we go down there and get it, it's about sixteen miles from Savannah, Georgia.

D. Rosengarten: And it's public land?

B. McCormick: It's federal land there.

D. Rosengarten: It's federal land.

B. McCormick: You know, there's no sign or nothing out there but there's a whole field and just go out there and pull grass and get tired.

2. Where bulrush grows (00:20)

B. McCormick: Usually by like salt water, usually or down by the back of a like a boat landing or something, maybe, behind my sister, down by the creek.

D. Rosengarten: Yeah.

B. McCormick: And we just cut it down and sometimes we just cut on the side of the woods.

3. Basketmakers have distinctive styles (00:38)

D. Rosengarten: You say that the basketweavers can tell one another's work?

B. McCormick: Yea, by the way they are, how they make the basket. They're so, like mine, like mama's basket, like when she made bread baskets, she usually make, bring the pine on the first row...

D. Rosengarten: Right.

B. McCormick: ...and then she'd go around and then she'd put her sweet grass in. But I usually put two rows of sweet grass and the pine, but she usually put pine and then her sweet grass and the you could tell her bread baskets were different than mine.

D. Rosengarten: So you have your own distinct pattern?

B. McCormick: Yeah, everybody got a different way of doing that but hey come up to being the same thing. You just put the sweet grass and the pine in different places.

4. The decker basket (00:25)

D. Rosengarten: Your mother calls that a decker?

B. McCormick: She lets us use it and in her, in a way it's three baskets in one. Cause like...like if she pulls on that again, she could make a bottom and put a top on that and then the other half you could put another bottom and then this, and that's three baskets in one. And you, and that's why she calls it a decker.