

Henrietta Snype and Eartha Lee Washington

2. Basket design (02:30)

<Video begins with a close up of E.L. Washington>

E.L. Washington: My mother and my aunt, they uh, my inspiration in-in the baskets, sewing. Uh, all that I learn about weaving basket is from them. My mother and my aunt, the two of them and my father used to do good to <laughs>.

<Camera zooms out to show E.L. Washington and H. Snype sitting together>

I know one thing though, I've learned to make a lot more creative stuff than my mother. At-at the time when they were weaving, they were just like bread basket, rain tray, coaster, and, fanner of course, um...

H. Snype: <Quietly> Fanner was one of the first baskets. <Speaking up> Fanner was one of the first baskets.

E.L. Washington: And they-why don't see too much more of the fruit baskets, do you?

<Camera zooms back in on E.L. Washington>

They used to make a lot of that. Fruit basket and rain tray and coaster, they were the three ideal basket at that time.

H. Snype: And your bread basket, is one of the first basket that we use.

<Camera zooms back out>

If you learn to make a bread basket, you have really achieved a big goal.

E.L. Washington: And...But um, I...Anyone who want to get into basket weaving, they should. It's a rewarding-when you look at something you created, it's always rewarding.

<Camera shows close up of E.L. Washington>

And 'special something like this. Not too many people have the talent for this and like Henrietta says, it's really dieing out and we shouldn't let it. We shouldn't. Because I just gotta feeling that years to come, somebody is gonna come and want to know about this basket and they would die inside if they can't get one.

<Camera shows close up of H. Snype>

H. Snype: I hope in the near future that they could come up with a solution, that can-we-all the weavers can kinda just get together and just like go there and just get the supply that we really need, so this art wont be a dieing art, just because of the shortage of the sweetgrass.

<Camera zooms back out>

And the palmetto, we can get that here locally.

<Camera shows close up of E.L. Washington>

E.L. Washington: And uh, far as the material, if the material die out, we wont have to worry about anybody training anyone to do it because there wont be anything to work with. It'll just be dead anyway without it and it will be a shame.

<Camera shows close up of E.L. Washington's hands, weaving>

A great shame, because it's a grand art.

<Camera zooms back out>

H. Snype: And you really have to appreciate this work to really like it, you know, you have to really appreciate it-

E.L. Washington: -I have an appreciation for it-

H. Snype: -Just don't look at it and say, "Oh, that's a basket."

<Camera zooms in on H. Snype>

It's an art, it's your heritage, and it's a tradition. So it's something that we like doing.