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Bennett, Mary Jane

Basket Styles (01:56)

Narrator: Do you come up with ideas for new baskets? New designs?

M.J. Bennett: New design? Let's see. I had a one new design once, a pocket book make in the shape of an iron.

Narrator: Hmm.

M.J. Bennett: Way down on the end of the stand down there, make in the shape of an iron. [That's why I do this here].

<Camera fades to black and comes back with M.J. Bennett>

Narrator: Do people ask you to make special baskets at times?

M.J. Bennett: Yeah, they come and ask me-ask to make a basket for [children]. Ask to make a birdcage and all that. *<Both laugh>*

Narrator: And you do it?

M.J. Bennett: We can make it, but if we make it, they don't-they ain't gonna want to pay the price.

Narrator: Aww, a birdcage-

M.J. Bennett: Cause it'll be too expensive.

Narrator: [See-]

M.J. Bennett: -That's what we tell them. We gonna be too expensive.

Narrator: Yeah.

<Camera fades to black again>

Narrator: What's the-the brown material?

M.J. Bennett: The brown is the pine needles.

Narrator: And the other is the-?

M.J. Bennett: Now this is the sweetgrass.

Narrator: Sweetgrass, yeah.

M.J. Bennett: And, um, it takes three things of the pine needles-well we use the pine needle just to change the color, make it, you know, prettier and it keep all the [blade] looking sweetgrass, we put that brown in it. That's why the pine needles. Just like your two-toned shoe or anything else.

Narrator: Yeah.

M.J. Bennett: Well it takes three to make it: the palm, the sweetgrass, the pine needles. And then, your spoon handle, your old spoon handle.

Narrator: Do you have a particular style?

M.J. Bennett: Think that, um...

Narrator: Is-

M.J. Bennett: I like the in and out basket. I like that style.

Narrator: What's that?

M.J. Bennett: Like that one over there.

<M.J. Bennett points to her stand and the camera follows>

M.J. Bennett: That [coming]. You don't see that one over there?

Narrator: No, which one?

M.J. Bennett: Way, the left-on the bench.

Narrator: Oh yeah, yeah.

<Camera focuses on the basket on the far-left>

M.J. Bennett: That's the in and out basket. Well I sell a lot of those.

Narrator: Oh I see, it almost looks sort of like-like a Japanese lantern

M.J. Bennett: That's right.