



Mary Vanderhorst

Interviewed by Dale Rosengarten

1. Learned as a child (01:11)

D. Rosengarten: Now at this time that you were learning, were other people in your family making baskets?

M. Vanderhorst: No, I was the only one.

D. Rosengarten: Um, when you were learning, were other people learning from Miss Rosa?

M. Vanderhorst: Yeah, some of her, some of her niece- in-laws and I think her, some of her nephews.

D. Rosengarten: So the boys are taught just a long as the girls?

M. Vanderhorst: Yeah, they can do it too. My age, you know, like they come up to my age. The young kids, I don't they are interested. Because my son, he did one for his school project, they can't do it but they're not interested like um...well when we were coming up. Some of the boys, they had to do it you know, because I know this um, guy, what his name is...Johnny um. What his title was, I know his name was Johnny Bardrick and he had to weave.

D. Rosengarten: What do you mean, what do you mean by had to?

M. Vanderhorst: His mother, he had to do it, you know...

D. Rosengarten: She told him he had to?

M. Vanderhorst: ...he sat out on the road and sell the basket and weave it, along with the children to make a living.

2. Places that men go to gather materials (00:54)

D. Rosengarten: Where do you get your materials from?

M. Vanderhorst: I buy them. The men go out and gather and then we'll buy from them.

D. Rosengarten: Where are them going now to get them?

M. Vanderhorst: Um, the last I heard, they were going to Florida and I think Savannah. They're from places like that. Some of the places they can't even go in Florida, they won't allow it. I don't know, because this man said that they went to gather a lot of stuff and they come and the police had to take it from them.

D. Rosengarten: Really?

M. Vanderhorst: They couldn't take it off the beach. So I think it's getting to be harder and harder to find like at Kiawah, they used to go over there to get it but all of those places are already built up now. I don't think they can get any from over there.

D. Rosengarten: That's true, Seabrook also.

M. Vanderhorst: Yeah.

3. Tourism and basketmaking (00:34)

D. Rosengarten: Does an event like Spiletto, that brings a lot of tourists to Charleston, do you feel like that has an effect?

M. Vanderhorst: Not on us I don't think, no.

D. Rosengarten: What about all of this development of, you know, as they're coming up the highway?

M. Vanderhorst: Oh, you mean the local basket?

D. Rosengarten: Well whatever, yeah

M. Vanderhorst: Yeah, I've got a lot of room. People stop by and say they live right out of Charleston or Mt. Pleasant, but they mostly buy for gifts.

D. Rosengarten: So in other words, having a lot more people has helped?

M. Vanderhorst: Yes, local or sale.

4. Basketmakers working together (01:12)

D. Rosengarten: Do you feel that there's competition between the basketweavers?

M. Vanderhorst: Not really. Because if you get out there you really sell your baskets.

D. Rosengarten: If someone, let's say, you made a basket like that one and you found out that someone was copying your design, would that make you angry?

M. Vanderhorst: No, I don't think it would. Because we're in different locations and all.

D. Rosengarten: Yeah.

M. Vanderhorst: Because baskets like that, well if I had one or two to sell it would be another week or so before I get another one made up. See, and if you have more on the roads, sometimes people come down and hey want a lot of large baskets you know. And if I've got one I sell mine, or two of mine and I know Susie Middleton, she usually has a lot of large baskets. I'll send them up there to her to go further up the street.

D. Rosengarten: Yeah. You help each other out...

M. Vanderhorst: They usually have some up there, the large ones.

D. Rosengarten: Yeah.

M. Vanderhorst: Or the shit they want.

D. Rosengarten: Do you feel like the people, the weavers, do help each other out?

M. Vanderhorst: Yeah, work together.