



Mary Jane Bennett and Mary Vanderhorst

1. Basket selling and issues with material scarcity (03:08)

<Video begins with close up of Mary Jane Bennett's hands weaving a basket>

M.J. Bennett: My mother was making basket and some people was coming 'cross the- they wanna gather up basket, you know, and she had a lot of basket.

<Camera zooms out to show M.J. Bennett>

And they had shine button on they clothes, you know, and we said, "Oh dem rich yankee comin' and they gonna buy all the basket." And they begin buying the basket from my mother and we was so happy because those basket, they buy food for us to eat and all like that, you know. 'Cause there ain't been much money, and um, come from school-

<Camera shows sweeping view of baskets>

-after we come from school, we had to make the flat bottom, then my mother bake it- make it up in the shape of different basket. And we keep working, we go to school, we come back from school and we had to go in the field and pick up cotton stalk and all like that.

<Camera shows M.J. Bennett>

Then come back from the field. Then we ate that night. We had to study lesson. After lesson, we had to make a basket bottom before we go to bed. And then um, she that day, she begin building it up in different shape of basket. Tell the Yankee-we call it Yankee 'cause we thought them the only people was rich. Come from Charleston to buy the basket.

<Camera shows photographs of a basket stand>

And suddenly, you know, the road come through. And after the road come through, when-still making basket, then um, Edna Rouse house was-mother house was 'side the highway. And she was making basket one day and her chair was 'side the road and she hang a basket on the chair back by she was sitting beside the road. And, some people come by and stop and buy a basket. And after you buy a basket, well that's was good to people come by and saw a basket and buy the basket. So therefore, she made up a little

stand beside the road, and put her basket on the stand, then the people begin to buy the basket. Then everybody said, "Oh, we could put basket stand beside the road." And one after another, begin they make little batch of basket and save it up and put it beside the road.

<Camera shows a photograph of a woman weaving baskets in Charleston>

And some yet would taking it to Charleston.

<Camera shows Mary Vanderhorst>

M. Vanderhorst: I have a lot of, um, you know, if people ride around they buy my basket. And the tourists in the summer, a lot of tourists buy it.

<Camera shows a roadside basket stand>

Customer: Your prices are better than Charleston.

M. Vanderhorst: Really?

Customer: Yeah.

M. Vanderhorst: And I have a nephew. He came down from Georgia and he was interested in it and I showed him how to do it. And um, he sell one of his baskets. He wanted seventeen dollars for it. So Dale told him, she would give him, um, fifteen. So um, he said um, "What about sixteen ninety-nine?" *<laughs>*

<Camera shows M. Vanderhorst again>

Now I don't really think it's a dieing art, but I think the material is what gon-we gonna have trouble getting, you know.

<Camera zooms in on M. Vanderhorst's hands>

We might have to go to something else *<laughs>*. But they used to get it from right around here.

<Camera zooms out to show M. Vanderhorst>

But from the, um, the um, development, and subdivision, and uh, people are buying up the land and put up posters, you know, you can't go in there to get it. But um...