



McDonald, Leslie and Gilbert Stuart  
*Interviewed by Polly Adema*

**1. History of gin (00:40)**

**L. McDonald:** It probab-it's probably been here since, what, 1940s, Mr. Gibb?

**G. Stuart:** I imagine so. Yeah, at least.

**L. McDonald:** Alan's granddaddy had it awhile before we had it and he's been dead probably twenty seven years.

**P. Adema:** Was he the first owner of it?

**L. McDonald:** No, um-

**G. Stuart:** It was a company, wasn't it?

**L. McDonald:** It was-it was several farmers that owned it together.

**P. Adema:** Was it cooperative?

**L. McDonald:** Right, then, um, Mr. Hubbard-Mr. Hubbard's daddy bought it out.

**P. Adema:** Mr. Hubbard is, Hubbard McDonald?

**L. McDonald:** Right.

**P. Adema:** And did they also-they're a farming family as well as owning the gin right?

**L. McDonald:** Right, we farmed cotton.

**P. Adema:** Um hum.

**2. Processing the cotton (02:02)**

**G. Stuart:** We'd weigh it here on the scales giving 1,500 pounds a bale-this is what we'd pick up, [bale and cotton]-

**L. McDonald:** Seed cotton.

**G. Stuart:** Seed cotton.

**P. Adema:** Seed cotton meaning it still has the seeds and-

**L. McDonald:** Right-

**P. Adema:** thresh on it?

**G. Stuart:** Then if he has six bales on that trailer or five bales we'd give him that many tickets. Pull it on out to the gin. And gin it.

**L. McDonald:** And when the cotton's heavier, they'd usually run around a 700 pound seed weight on a 500 pound bale and then the-the excess would be trash, you know?

**P. Adema:** Um hum.

**L. McDonald:** To make up 1500 pounds.

**P. Adema:** Um hum.

**G. Stuart:** And the soon they get it picked, the better off they are.

**L. McDonald:** It's heavier.

**P. Adema:** The better quality cotton it will be?

**G. Stuart:** Better quality, more weight.

**L. McDonald:** See later on it might take 760 pounds of seed or 800 pounds even to make the same weight bale.

**P. Adema:** Hum.

**L. McDonald:** So, it-it gets lighter.

**P. Adema:** And as it goes in this first stage, the seeds go off into the....what do you call it?

**L. McDonald:** We have a seed house.

**G. Stuart:** Seed house.

**P. Adema:** Seed house.

**L. McDonald:** And um, when-when they're ginning it um, the [lin] is separated, the trash goes out to the trash house we showed you out back and the seeds go to the seed house.

**P. Adema:** Um hum. And where do the seeds go from the seed house?

**L. McDonald:** We either ship them to the old mill or to the dairy. Or to a broker and from there they go to dairy farmers.

**P. Adema:** And once the bales have been wrapped in their yellow heavy duty bags-

**L. McDonald:** bagging

**P. Adema:** And tagged.

**L. McDonald:** Um hum

**P. Adema:** Where do they go from that truck?

**G. Stuart:** They go to the warehouse.

**L. McDonald:** We ship them to a warehouse and then essentially we're through with it.

**P. Adema:** Is the farmer through with it then or does the farmer negotiate with the warehouse?

**L. McDonald:** The farmer negotiates with the-the broker, whoever he decides to sell to.