



a natural state

Artist: Billie Anne McKellar

Video 5: Curio Cabinet, A. Jugs & Pipes

Billie Anne McKellar: This is a cabinet that my husband built just to store some of our favorite pieces of pottery that I made, my mother, my children, my grandchildren, my grandmother.

This pitcher here is one that my grandmother made, and there's no date on it, but it was probably made in the 70's.

And this also is a piece of hers, and it's called a wedding jug, and the story goes that the Catawbas used this when a couple married, and the bride would drink from one spout, and the groom would drink from the other. Then they – the bride would toss it over her shoulder and ever how many pieces it broke into, that's how many children she would have. You can see some of the markings maybe, on this piece that my mother always used - *grandmother* always used - the palm leaf, and that's how I recognize a lot of her pieces, but she had her own style too. She flared her spouts more than some do, even more than what I do, but this is one of my grandmother's, Arsetta's Sanders pieces.

Uh, here we have a pipe that my niece found at a sale in Lancaster, South Carolina, and it's just a hatchet pipe, and she also has a feather motif on it, and we think this dates back a hundred years or more, and Mildred Blue's grandmother, we think, made it. That's who Mildred thinks made it also. Well, they were used I'm told, and a lot of people, you know, they're just collector's items now, but they were used at one time. What type tobacco they smoked in it, I don't know. But they did decorate their pieces also, and even some of the pieces that we have in our times, they're decorated.

Also, a pipe that we have is called the Indian head pipe, and we used those on our pitchers, our vases, and also, used them as pipes. And I'm told that this is a King Hagler image, and that's what the molds were fashioned after. And sometimes people put feathers on them. And my grandmother, this came from her mold. And we also have a mold here. The King Hagler, the mold that she had. I don't know

how old they are, but I would think more than a hundred years old- maybe a hundred and fifty, maybe more than that.

King Hagler was a very influential leader. He was looked up to very much like Chief Blue in his time, and he also worked well with the governors of South Carolina. And he was killed by two Shawnee Indians in 1767, I think, and they were - you know, they lost a great leader whenever he was killed. And some Catawbas went after his killer and tracked him down until they were killed also, but he was very good with treaties and things like that, and he was the one that asked that, you know, we be allotted so much land for the people, but that did not follow through until the 1840's. *End.*

Billie Anne, you want to get – you want to put Donna's gloves on and set the pan out here, and I'm going to rake 'em out right here and you just pick 'em up. Now if your gloves start getting hot, stop. Because they're going to be hot.

(Turns piece over) You see the different colors on it? Its got some red and grey.

I always try to say a little word before I put 'em in the fire. I don't, you know, say it out loud or anything. I believe God's got a lot to do with it, and I try to ask him always, you know, to bless the fire, to bless the pottery, and I've always had good luck with it. *End.*