



Nellie Mursier

Interviewed by Anne Kimzey

1. Growing up (00:43)

Mursier: I grew up in a little place, down next to the river called [Jazztown [?]], where my great-grandfather had his plantation.

Kimzey: Had his what?

Mursier: His plantation.

Kimzey: His plantation.

Mursier: Um-hum....

Kimzey: And um, what kind of crops did you grow on that?

Mursier: Well, we grew peas, cotton, corn, tomatoes, onions, pepper, we had peaches, trees, and we had cows and ducks, dogs and mules, all of that.

Kimzey: How did you use the mule?

Mursier: Plow.

Kimzey: Plow with?

Mursier: Uh-huh, hoe-hoe cotton, pick cotton.

2. Making a quilt (02:35)

Mursier: What other people told me, like an ocean that has worn out and got a split in the middle, I take it and turn it into a square, and take my strings and lay one right in the middle of it, and sew strings on it until I get it covered, then I turn the piece over- the whole piece of sheet over- the square- and cut it off around the sides and then leave it; the squares with strings up and down. Then I get another square, larger, and I put the one the- the [string [?]] that I had made and it [unintelligible], put four three corner pieces on it, then it will be like a string Albert.

Kimzey: A string what?

Mursier: Albert.

Kimzey: A string Albert, is that what it's called?

Mursier: Uh-huh, that's what I call it. These are pieces that I have made up myself.

Kimzey: So that's the name for your pattern?

Mursier: String Albert, this is another quilt. It is red and white, it is they say about- they say about red and white, and um, they say red and white, and the other pieces on this white side....

Kimzey: Now did you get your idea for that from-?

Mursier: No, someone gave me that pattern.

Kimzey: Oh, someone gave you the pattern?

Mursier: Um-hum.

Kimzey: And you just picked out the material that you wanted?

Mursier: Um-hum.

Kimzey: Ok, then you're going to make several [blocks [?]] like those?

Mursier: Yeah, make a lot of them; make a big quilt.

Kimzey: How many boxes do you usually put in-?

Mursier: This one is probably going to take about 16.

Kimzey: Ok.

Mursier: Or 20, I don't know [depends on how big I'll stretch it [?]].

Kimzey: Ok, and that's another one?

Mursier: This pattern is an old sheet torn out into a big square. I cut a square piece that I could sit in there, three kinds of ways. I sewed strings around it; when I finished it up I [turned [?]] the square over, and cut around the edge, and then leave it a block.

Kimzey: And then you put [sashing [?]] around that when you put in the-?

Mursier: Then I put- then I strip it with some color; with a solid color, the string with all different colors and different shapes and sizes, but when you finish out the square you got your block.

Kimzey: Now, is this your favorite pattern here?

Mursier: Yeah.

Kimzey: Did somebody teach you how to do that?

Mursier: No.

Kimzey: You made that one up?

3. Other patterns (00:52)

Kimzey: What are some of the other patterns that you can do?

Mursier: Well, I can make double T, and um, the nine patch, and the nine patch Albert, and um, I can make several but I don't know their name though, but I can look at a quilt and see I can make it.

Kimzey: Um-hum, when you said; is it Albert, is that what you said; A-L?

Mursier: Albert.

Mursier: Oh, Albert, <laughs> ok, I was right the first time-some....

Mursier: But this here, this is what other people throw away, now you see a string like that, now you'd throw it in the fire.

Kimzey: Um-hum, yeah, that's just a little teeny scrap.

Mursier: Now, see this is where it's put in now, see there, that's where you'd want them put on now, put this one on the side of there, then I laid this one like this and turn it over like this, ok, the string is hanging out on the side; I turn it over and take my scissors, and cut down....

Kimzey: Just to make an even edge?

Mursier: Um-hum.

4. Afghans (00:46)

Kimzey: And where did you learn how to do those afghans that you were saying- showing me?

Mursier: Well about, let's see, 10, 12 years ago?

Kimzey: And you said you always- already knew how to crochet?

Mursier: Um-hum.

Kimzey: But you wanted to know how to make the squares?

Mursier: Um-hum, the corners, I can make some round, but I couldn't make nothing square.

Kimzey: And an old friend of yours showed you?

Mursier: Through my old girlfriend, she's about- if she'd had been living, she'd be about 70 something odd years old now, she can make anything.

Kimzey: Do you make other things besides quilts and afghans?

Mursier: No.

Kimzey: That's your main- main past time?

Mursier: Yeah.