



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.