

Nancy Basket Interviewed by T.C. Foster

**Is there a story in your baskets? (00:53)**

T.C. Foster: When you make the baskets, is there a story woven in the basket?

N. Basket: Sometimes there is. Sometimes the shape of the basket will tell a story. This tells the story of Bear and how one small Cherokee community was starving and had no food.

*<Camera switches to show Nancy Basket>*

One of the boys went out into the forest, stayed there a very long time and came home very infrequently and as he came home for the last few times he told his family that it was easier for them to go into the forest and find food. Would the family please join him because he was going to become the bear. And so it’s a story of sacrifice, um, for the people, and that they would give the meat to the people and they could use their hides for robes and their insides even for the bowstrings for their arrows. And so that’s what those people did and that is why some of the Cherokee survived, because they, uh, long time ago, eat the bear.