

# Digital Traditions

...a public access initiative for  
folklife & material culture

Nancy Basket

*Interviewed by T.C. Foster*

## **Basketmaking roots... (01:12)**

*<Video opens with Nancy Basket>*

**N. Basket:** I first quilted baskets and I drew baskets and I was attracted to basket making and then my friend showed me two hours and I was able to take that two hours and turn it into a lifetime. I appreciate my friend for that. I, uh, feel that some of the skill was passed down genetically and that my path, this drive to learn more about baskets, to where I helped form the first basketry guild in the United States in Seattle area, because I found a group of people who wanted to do it, um...I learned the stories from the northwest, that once a young woman shows promise of becoming a good basket maker, she is given the name of one of her ancestors, so that she can live up to, uh, the skill that her grandmother had and it is as though that grandmother could come back and help guide my fingers again. I felt my grandmother do that. I have come to realize certain things about myself, or the path that I was on, or what I needed to do to accomplish things, and I felt very close to Margret Basket. So I'm glad that the older ones in our family passed that tradition down, so that we could not only preserve it through writing, but through the stories of the people again.