

10-7-1977

Interview with Newt and Lonie Cook (FA 98) - October 7, 1977

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NOTES:

I returned on 10/7/77 to clarify a few questions I had from the previous interviews.

II C
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1) I asked Mrs. Cook if she had tied the top (of the basket) before she started to weave. She answered that she did not think she had.

2) "How did you make the handle?" Lonie stated that it was a separate piece and that it was stuck in at the top. The baskets always had handles.

3) "George" was the name of Aunt Mary Ray's, daughter's boyfriend. "Jim" was her son's name.

II A

4) The reason spring is the best time of year for willow is that you use the sprouts that grow up at the base of the tree. This is when the sap is just coming up, and they are tender and easy to peel.

II E

5) When Mrs. Cook helped Aunt Mary Ray, she would peel the willows and stick the willow into the weaved bottoms. She watched Aunt Mary Ray do the rest of the weaving.

IV A

6) On 10/14/77, Mrs. Stanley Cotterll was contacted. Her grandmother, Maryanne Sharp, made willow baskets. She died before Mrs. Cotterll was born, so she never saw her grandmother make any. She does remember her family having one of the baskets however. It had a small bottom and gradually enlarged toward the top. The bark was left on it, and it was about the size of a half-bushel basket. The willow was boiled to make it easier to work with, and she it might also help to preserve the wood. It had a handle, but she does not remember how it was attached. The only time she remembers it being used was for carrying lunch to church on Sunday. She said that "no ends showed," and that it was "very, very well-made and was very fancy."

IV C