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# Interview with Audie Dennison (FA 98) - September 24, 1977

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9/24/77

(2)

Subject: LONG DISTANCE BASKET TRADE

Interviewer: Keith Ludden

IC DENNISON I was tellin' ya about seein' Mr. Logsdon - Walter, I call him. I've known him all my life. Well actually all my children \_\_\_\_\_ had school with him, different grades, y'know. He taught school for several years. I saw him yesterday, out here at the funeral. I told him about ya bein' down here, and he said, well he told ya to come talk to me, and I said - well, I told him, I spoke about you (ie., Mr Logsdon -KJL) Mr. Logsdon, I was talkin' to him I said, "I spoke about you. You could probably help him more than I could," and he said, "No, I told him to come see you. I said, "Well he told me that (you?) did."

VI, IB K. LUDDEN You said - well first of all, can you tell me anything more about how you grew up in this community. You said you were born on the Green River?

DENNISON Right...

K. LUDDEN ...on a farm, or something like that?

DENNISON That's right. I was born on a farm. I was born within about a mile of the Dennison ferry. That's all...

K. LUDDEN Which ferry?

DENNISON Dennison. Dennison ferry

K. LUDDEN Okay, I see.

DENNISON (There was a?) ferry there, well, it was (there?) when I grew up, and on till I was about twenty-one year old. I guess it was in 1921 or '22 when they quit ferrying. They ferried there with the boat, y'know, the big ferry boats. A second cousin of mine run that ferry for a long time. I was born about a mile - that's all in the Mammoth Cave National Park, now.

K. LUDDEN Yeah, they've aquired a lot of land.

II, ID DENNISON That's right, uh huh. But that's where I was born, and grew up there. Well, I left there when I was seventeen. I went to Illinois. I worked out there for a couple of years, came back and got married.

K. LUDDEN You worked for the WPA, you said?

DENNISON No, I worked on a farm in Illinois.

K. LUDDEN Oh, Okay

DENNISON No, I never did work on the WPA \_\_\_\_\_ (I may have known the folks?) but I didn't work on it any. And I got married, I settled down here on what's called Dog Creek. It's a funny name. Eut, now of

course, the biggest part of that creek - it was called Little Dog Creek and Big Dog Creek - is in this \_\_\_\_\_ Reservoir, now all part of that.

II E K. LUDDEN You said you never made any baskets until you got married?

DENNISON That's right.

K. LUDDEN Your wife taught you how to make baskets, then?

IC DENNISON She knew how when we was married. I'd have never started if it hadn't been for her knowin' how. Her father and mother made 'em, and she grew up - we got married, why of course we kept makin' 'em for several years. I told ya about losin' my wife, didn't I?

B. LUDDEN That's too bad.

DENNISON It'll be three years the tenth of this December. \_\_\_\_\_ I just come back from the grocery store in Cub Run. I didn't even shave. I thought I heard someone knockin' on the door.

K. LUDDEN I guess I had kind of a light tap there. I didn't knock very loud, I'm sorry. How long did it take her to teach you how to make the baskets? Did it take very long before you could learn to make them very good?

III E IV A DENNISON No, it didn't take very long. I was lookin' at a little tiny basket yesterday afternoon, after the funeral, out there, I come back down to this big two-story house, out on the left, here, y'know, just where you came in. Alvey lives up there, Leroy Alvey - (cause he's my brother-in-law?) - and I come back up there and stayed awhile, and I noticed one little tiny basket, and I thought about you then. If I could have had one, you could have saw it. You probably saw 'em though, I guess - haven't you?

K. LUDDEN The little tiny ones? No, I don't think I have.

DENNISON I mean any size.

K. LUDDEN Oh, yeah, I've seen some of the baskets that have been made in the area. ... You didn't go on any of the big wagon trips, then?

II A DENNISON No, no I never did. No, we sold ours most - just locally - to the merchants.

III A 3 K. LUDDEN Yeah, that's one thing I need to get back to, because that's one thing I missed, because that's where the tape split. You were talking a lot about the bartering system you had. You would go to the merchants and you would give them a certain number of baskets, and they would give you what you called a "due bill?"

DENNISON That's right.

K. LUDDEN Can you tell me about that again?

DENNISON That's right. That's what they called it, y'know. A due bill. I don't

III A3  
 V  
 know. I guess it's a right good name for it. We'd take these baskets to these merchants - different merchants. Back then it was kind of competitive, y'know. We'd take 'em where we though we could do the best. But all the merchants, they- It was very seldom that they'd ever pay any money. They'd expect you to take it in groceries, y'know. Of course, like I say, some families - not very many - (you might find?) one couple, and aged couple - 'bout all that anyone was able to do, y'know, so they mostly depended on the baskets for their livin'. But there's very few that did. It was just mostly a sideline. It was with us. I farmed all the time, and I have all my life. But through the wintertime, y'know, bad weather, we couldn't do anything. We just set around the house, and burn wood - watch the fire burn, I guess, while we made baskets.

K. LUDDEN So this was a winter type of activity...

VIII D  
 DENNISON That's right. It was with us - with me and my wife, and my freinds - several others, you know. Just some extra income.

K. LUDDEN Did you, like, spend entire days doing this?

II  
 DENNISON Oh, yeah. (Lots of times?) - an entire day outside of just doin the chores, y'know - takin' care of the livestock and like that - house-work \_\_\_\_\_ We'd devote the rest of the time to basket making.

K. LUDDEN Did you take them to the merchants as you made them, like you'd get maybe a dozen baskets made, and then take some of them to the merchants?

III A3, DENNISON  
 III A1  
 That's right. Maybe a dozen, or two dozen - different numbers of baskets, y'know. They didn't have no certain number. As I said, we'd just make as many as we wanted to, and then take 'em off when it was convenient - to the store, buy our groceries, then (sign these?) due bills \_\_\_\_\_ 'way on ahead after ya quit makin' basket, y'know, you'd still have these - I called 'em due bills. I don't know what \_\_\_\_\_. But anyway, say you took twenty dollars worth of baskets to the merchants, and you only traded out, say half of that - say ten dollars, or fifteen. 'he balance - he'd just give ya a ticket, or a due bill, y'know showin' that he owed you that much, from that - whatever the bskets - the bunch of baskets. And of course, if you kept on that way, a lot of times, well, you quit through the summer, see. You'd still, maybe have several of them due bills, that you could still take in, y'know and redeem, for groceries. You didn't get no money.

V B2  
 K. LUDDEN They held on that pretty tight, huh?

III B1  
 DENNISON These merchants, they was the ones that done the peddlin' of the baskets. Or they'd hire someone to. And they would take maybe five-six-seven, or eight hundred baskets at a load, back then, and...

K. LUDDEN They were the ones that went on the big wagon trips?

DENNISON That's right.

K. LUDDEN Was there a merchant in Cub Run that did that?

DENNISON Well, now, there was a merchant who - right down here - Oh, down the highway, here, I guess a mile and a half. \_\_\_\_\_ . Some-time, maybe he'd go - say, up on a trip with someones with him. Or else he'd just send him, hire someone to take 'em and peddle 'em out. He had his price. They'd be gone, lots of times for two or three weeks. And maybe a month at times. They'd go (clear?) over in Indiana, Ohio. They'd just keep peddlin' 'em 'till they sold 'em y'know, and they - Of course after - the more experience they had; the more trips they made, they generally knew where they could do the best, y'know.

III B 5  
K. LUDDEN Do you know the route they took very good?

IC DENNISON No, I don't. I really don't. I know this family that lives right over here - His father, now, Tommy Alvey - he was a merchant a long time, down here at Wax. That's Leroy's father

K. LUDDEN He lives in this brick house?

III B 1 DENNISON He lives in this big house. One on the left as you went in. And he would go sometimes maybe himself, y'know. But most of the time, he would hire someone. And then sometimes some of these people that had peddled 'em, they'd take a notion to just buy 'em, y'know. Buy 'em from the merchants at a set price. And they'd go out on their own, and they'd peddle 'em. They've done that lots of times.

K. LUDDEN People from outside the area would come and buy them from the merchants and go peddle 'em, or people....

III A 2, DENNISON That's right - no mostly in the area. Are you recording this now?

III B 2 K. LUDDEN Do you want me to turn it off?

DENNISON Well, I don't know. You might while I tell ya this. This is a little joke in a way.

K. LUDDEN Do you want it off?

DENNISON If you don't mind.

(Mr. Dennison relates a story in which one on the area's merchants as a joke temporarily duped another man into buying some baskets for the purpose of peddling which had set too long and dried out. The deal was made, and the peddler about set off, but not held to the deal.)

III B ...and they'd take 'em and peddle 'em on their own, y'know. If they made good, all right; if they lost a little money, all right.

K. LUDDEN Kind of like the stock market.

DENNISON That's right.

K. LUDDEN I don't know if you'd have time to do this today, or not. But would it be possible for you to show me - like maybe take me to some of this timber across the road and show me what kind of timber was good to make the baskets with, and what wasn't

#A DENNISON Well, I don't know whether we would find any right down there  
If I know we could, why we could - have time now. But I really  
don't believe there's any white oak in there.

K. LUDDEN I see.

DENNISON The right type, I mean - size

K. LUDDEN Do you know where we could find some that you could show me, or  
is that pretty hard to find now?

DENNISON Well, I hadn't thought about it. It would (really?) be right around  
in this country right around here. Back down on low land...

K. LUDDEN Yeah, you said it was good to find it on low land.

DENNISON That's right. You can find it, lots of times - the timber - But  
it won't work, up on this high land.

K. LUDDEN Yeah, we're kind of on a ridge, here, aren't we?

DENNISON Yes sir, we are.

K. LUDDEN That's what I thought.

DENNISON I don't know. It's (a good?) elevation (for?) several miles in each  
direction.

K. LUDDEN So we'd have to travel several mile off this ridge in order to find  
good timber.

DENNISON We could walk a mile or so back here, off the highway. Where our  
families used to make some baskets. And I suppose they got the timber  
down there. We might - we could walk down here, a little bit, and  
see if we might find - Yes sir, I guess we really could.

K. LUDDEN Do you want to?

DENNISON We might find something that'd be capable of - that would work.

(The next section's transcription may appear a little sketchy, as  
it was recorded while walking about in a woods, creating a fair  
amount of noise on the tape. - KJL )

DENNISON ...y'ses around here, they just won't work. They just won't rive.

K. LUDDEN You called these cat-faces?

DENNISON Uh huh, that's what we called 'em. Now, right down here - Come  
here. \_\_\_\_\_ Now that's the right  
size, and that over there, I mean the size, now, of your timber.  
But \_\_\_\_\_ see how smooth this is right here. That just  
wouldn't - you couldn't do a thing with that.

(I believe Mr. Dennison is talking of two different trees or two  
different textures on the same tree, here, in referring to the  
comparative smoothness. The point being that the timber must be

IIA

smooth, that is, free from knots, locusts and cat-faces (black knots)).

K. LUDDEN This wouldn't be good?"

DENNISON No, It wouldn't. It's the right type of timber, now...

K. LUDDEN It's about the right size, but...

DENNISON It's the right size, right. \_\_\_\_\_ white oak.  
I'm sure we wouldn't find...

K. LUDDEN Why do you call this bark "cat facing?" - or is there any on her?

DENNISON (You've got it right here?) Uh huh, yeah. And here's a large- I don't know, really the - actually why they ever give it that name. (noise) But they're all just like that one cat-face we looked at. They just - They won't rive. They're rough, y'know, just too rough: \_\_\_\_\_ Now, like I was showin' ye down there, y'know \_\_\_\_\_ Now, ordinarily, you'll get 'em - ya won't get a - (but one cut off of 'em?) (noise) \_\_\_\_\_ ...find one like this right here. That six'd be fine. \_\_\_\_\_ all along, y'know the full length you can cut. Now, that probably won't work, 'cause there's too many of those cat faces and little knobs. Now these (stubs growed out?) - they go clear to the heart, see, and that's what (ruins?) it. They'll go clear to the heart...

K. LUDDEN O, the knots give you trouble? 'Cause you can't get the knife through them, right?

DENNISON That's right

K. LUDDEN I see.

DENNISON And even if ya can, why they'll leave a great big hole in the split, y'see. Oh, did you want to get a picture of that?

(some discussion regarding the picture)

K. LUDDEN You said those were all about the right size, but they're just too dry.

DENNISON Too rough. We would say just rough. They're just too rough. You want a smooth - no knots, no notin' just smooth, y'know...

K. LUDDEN You looked for peices that didn't have knots in them?

DENNISON Then when you split that open, you take this heart all out. That just leaves the outside, what's on the outside of the heart, and that's what you make your splits out of.

K. LUDDEN You make your splits out of the heart, or the outside?

DENNISON No, I say you rive \_\_\_\_\_, just discard it. Throw it away.

IIC

IIA

IIC

K. LUDDEN You quarter it, don't you?

IC DENNISON 'hat's right. You first got to split 'em open, and (then you center 'em?) as near as you can. \_\_\_\_\_ cut and split it open. Then you have two pieces. Then you quarter each one of them, see. Split 'em again. You've got four quarters there. Then of course if it's a tree like the first one we looked at, why you would need to split them agsin. \_\_\_\_\_ cut that was maybe six inches through in diameter, why maybe you'd get sixteen or eighteen pieces out of it if you (were?) rivin' the splits out of it, see. And you have to take the bark off it, and rive your splits out, and then spray them down. Did you say you were from Nevada?

K. LUDDEN Nebraska.

DENNISON Nebraska. \_\_\_\_\_ ( to Bev, concerning the wooded area Mr Dennison and I were walking in) We seen a lot of trees down there, but they wouldn't make splits. \_\_\_\_\_

B. LUDDEN What's your dog's name?

VI DENNISON King. He's a faithful companion, too. I'll tell ya, he's just - Everywhere I'm at, why he's right at my heels.

B. LUDDEN He's really pretty.

DENNISON But he's awful dirty. \_\_\_\_\_ tobacco farm, he'll get that \_\_\_\_\_, and he'll get all muddy, and he'll come out to the house, and right on the porch, y'know. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm out a whole lot, and he lays on that porch, but (if you broke in?) you wouldn't get on that porch when she was around. He's freindly. He's really too freindly with children. A lot of times the neighbors, y'know that he knows, (like, maybe he'd be dirty, and?) \_\_\_\_\_ ruin your clothes. Get down now, King! You know what those things are?

(He is referring to some small seeds of a light green color, caught in King's coat)

K. LUDDEN What are those?

DENNISON We call them "bugger lice" Yes sir, they really are somethin' Get away, King! They'll stick there. Sure will. You want to go back in?

K. LUDDEN Yeah.

C DENNISON Well, Mr. Logsdon, \_\_\_\_\_ He said he told you like he gave you the history of basket makin' as well as he could.

IIA K. LUDDEN Once you got this wood quartered, did you have any way you could test it to make sure it would rive out, or...

DENNISON No, you can do that when you cut it. If you're experienced you can pretty well know before you ever cut the tree, y see. Then after you cut it, why you can tell by lookin' at that grain. I guess you know what that is .



K. LUDDEN The grain of the wood, yeah

IIA DENNISON 'ou know what that is. The grain of the wood. The finer the grain, why, the better it'll rive.

K. LUDDEN Ah, I see.

DENNISON There's a difference in those grains. Some of 'em's a lot finer (stronger?) than others. More \_\_\_\_\_, y'know. But the finer the grain that you can find, why, the better the wood.

K. LUDDEN That's why - I suppose that's why the greener wood would work better. Because it's not as course.

DENNISON Yeah, well you take a real good stick, when you cut it green, see, And then let it dry out, why then it's no good wither. If it dries out, you just -It's so brittle, see-, you can't do anything with it- to get it down - well even to a piece that'd make four splits - something like that. You couldn't pull it apart without it breaking on ya if it dries out (and gets?) brittle.

In the summer time, of course we never did make very many in the summertime, like I said a while ago. When it's hot, dry weather, you've got to keep them in a damp place, your timber. (I've known?) diggin' trenches, and lay it in the trenches. Pour water in. Pour it in full of water, then cover it back over with dirt, y'know. Let it lay there as they use it. To keep it from dryin' out, so it'll work, y'know.

K. LUDDEN What would keep it from rotting?

DENNISON It won't lay there long enough. It would, eventually, y'know if you let it lay there long enough...

K. LUDDEN You didn't cut that much at one time.

DENNISON That's right. We didn't cut enough but what you could work it up before then.

III D K. LUDDEN When you and your wife were making baskets, if you went by a shop that you knew had bought some baskets, could you tell by going in and looking at the baskets which ones you hade made? How could you tell which ones were yours?

DENNISON Well, there's just no two hardly was made alike. Maybe just set 'em out, y'know, or (out of a ?) bunch, you wouldn't detect the difference too much. Some of 'em you would. That trade was just like some of 'em that was \_\_\_\_\_ - just experts. And some of 'em was just, y'know - They had to learn. And like every other trade, maybe some never did learn it real well, you know what I mean, and there was just \_\_\_\_\_ was the difference.

K. LUDDEN Was there a particular part of making the basket that you were real good at, that you could tell was your work?

DENNISON Well, yes sir, you could tell. Of course, now, you take the fremin'

of the basket - the (hem?) - we called 'em the ribs - that you wove these splits around, y'see. The nicer they was, the better shaped they was, the better basket, y'see. Now there was a lot to the shape of the basket after you got it made, y'see. How it would look. They, of course was all supposed to have a certain look, in other words - the (inches??), y'know - whatever size it was. So much \_\_\_\_\_ was out heere on this side, y'know - \_\_\_\_\_. And some of 'em just - well, as I said, lots of 'em would look - it was no trouble to tell. Now these (sorrier?) basket weavers, they didn't get as good a money, either. They paid more - they didn't pay a uniform price. They couldn't do it. 'Cause \_\_\_\_\_ you all this afternoon, no I could bring two baskets \_\_\_\_\_ that I've seen time after time. And of course they're awful high, now. Mr. Logsdon told me they get twenty dollars for bushel baskets, now when you make them. An he used to make 'em for fifty cents.

III  
K. LUDDEN Yeah.

IV D  
DENNISON Well, you could take a couple of baskets, maybe so-and so had made one of 'em, and somebody else, the other. The same sized baskets, and price to you. Maybe they're real good baskets - better lookin' baskets. The prices now are maybe five or ten dollars higher than the other, an you'd probably take it.

K. LUDDEN Yeah.

IV A  
DENNISON It would make that much difference, y'see, because you'd say, well, after you look, you'd say, "Now I don't care about the other at no price." Now down here. I was tellin ya I seen that little tiny basket and it was nice. I never did ask him who made it. Naomi's my wife's second cousin. Her mother and my wife's (mother) are cousins.

K. LUDDEN Mrs. Logsdon?

DENNISON No, they're Alvey's

K. LUDDEN Oh, Alvey's, I'm sorry.

IC  
DENNISON He's right down here in this big house. Then I noticed a half. In other words, it had been made just like it had been cut in two and... (The precise wording is unclear here, but I believe what Mr. Dennison is describing is a basket with one flat side, as if a round basket had been bisected, and then had the open side closed. -KJL) He's got a nice home down there, a lot of nice furniture and stuff, y'know, and he had this setting on the mantle, and I picked it up and looked at it. It was nice. So now, back when we made 'em, they made, well, three or four different kinds of baskets, they made egg baskets, they called 'em. Back then, why the women most of the times carried their eggs off to the store (or?) groceries, y'know, and they'd have a special basket for then - made out long with a handle on it. And then some they called flour baskets..... (first side of tape ends. -KJL)

IV A

SIDE TWO

IV B  
K. LUDDEN You were talking about the manufactured dyes that they made? Was there a Specific brand you used?

DENNISON Yes sir. I remember - You mean the brand name?

K. LUDDEN Yeah.

DENNISON Putnam P-U-T-N-A-M. That's the first dye brand that I can remember. Putnam dye, P-U-T-N-A-M.

K. LUDDEN They'd go into town and buy that kind of dye?

VI  
DENNISON Well, no they could - when that come around - Well you could go to these local stores - merchants, y'know. They (handled it?). Now, I lived down her on the lake at that time. I lived from 1921 to 1924 on a farm, with a man that - He had a store. - A merchant on this farm and he had the post office, too. He was postmaster. And I'd drive \_\_\_\_\_ to Munfordville. It was about, oh, 18 miles. Made about three trips a week with a team and wagon haulin his stuff out - his merchandise, which would be all kinds of stuff, y'know. \_\_\_\_\_, we called 'em \_\_\_\_\_ (the word sounds something like "drummers" -KJL) used to come around. And they'd - but from these \_\_\_\_\_ make out their orders, y'know. They'd send 'em out from these - out of Louisville, and places like that - these big manufacturers, y'know. They'd have 'em all over the country...

K. LUDDEN Salesmen.

DENNISON Why, they would drive a horse and buggy lots of times. No car, y'know, back then.

K. LUDDEN This was in the twenties, you said?

DENNISON In the twenties, right. Then, of course, I'd say - Well, in the early forties, they still used to come around, in here - Cub Run, and on down - well just all over the country, y'know.

K. LUDDEN Did they ever buy any of the baskets?

DENNISON Huh?

K. LUDDEN Did they ever buy any of the baskets, like to take home to their wives, or something like that?

III A  
DENNISON Well, now I would say probably they did. They probably did. But I don't know about any. But they probably did. It wasn't all the merchants, now. All of 'em didn't (fool with it?).

K. LUDDEN Yeah. Was there a particular kind of merchant that...

DENNISON No, no it's just - There wasn't really any difference in 'em. Only some of 'em just ran on a larger scale than others, y'know. Handled more stuff - difference in more variety \_\_\_\_\_ like it is now out here in Cub Run. There's another store. There's

IC  
 two stores in Cub Run \_\_\_\_\_ . But that one on the left \_\_\_\_\_, why the handle - They've got a little of most everything, that pertains to farming. You can go out there, and you can buy most any kind of a bolt, or anything - plumbing - stuff like that. And the other store don't handle nothin' like that, so it's always been that way. Some would handle a greater variety of merchandise than others. Now, Alvey, over here at Wax, at one time -- Leroy's father. He's the same way. He handled a lot of stuff that pertained to farming - farm machinery, and stuff like that. And then all the parts, y'know - keep 'em in stock.

III A1  
 K. LUDDEN Was it the merchants who had a larger stock and ran on a bigger scale that usually handled the baskets? Or was it small merchants?

DENNISON Well, no really the smaller merchants - what you'd call your small merchants - They didn't fool with 'em

K. LUDDEN They didn't take 'em in at all?

DENNISON Back then, more so than it is now, of course, the bigger merchants were wealthier merchants - was more able to hold this stuff and wait for the money, don't ya see.

K. LUDDEN I see, Yeah.

DENNISON ...And they would do a lot of what they call credit. And a lot of 'em would wait twelve months, y'know until they sold their tobacco crop, or something like that, and collect their money. While the little merchant couldn't do it. He just didn't have the money to (replace it then?), y'know. When he sold it, why is he didn't get his money, he couldn't (replace that \_\_\_\_\_).

VIII B  
 K. LUDDEN When did they stop buying these baskets? Or do they still buy these baskets from the people around this area?

DENNISON I don't know. Now Leroy, nown here, would tell ya. He probably could tell ya definitely. I think maybe that over here at Wax - a place they call Wax - Since that reservoir come in, there's been a lot of changes over there. It's a pretty big place, now It's built, y'know. You know how these things (go/grow?). They've got about three stores over there - I know two. And I'm pretty sure they do still buy 'em over there. but now, they've just about quit makin' 'em. It's a trade that's just vanishing fast through this country. Now, take when you get back up here in the mountains in north Kentucky and places like that...

K. LUDDEN In the eastern parts?

VIII C  
 DENNISON Eastern, I mean, yeah. Well they still probably do, y'know. But it's just a vanishing trade around here.

K. LUDDEN But you don't know when the merchants generally stopped buying these baskets?

DENNISON

VIII B

No sir, I really don't. I really don't know. I'll say - I'd say around the early forties, is when it begin to decline. It just gradually diminished ever since.

K. LUDDEN

I think we were talking about this last time. It was because the times started getting a little better, is that why?

DENNISON

VI

the economy. Well, I guess you know, like I guess where you came from, it was that way all over the United States. I got four children. I got four children. And I went six months. After I graduated from the eighth grade, I went six months to junior college - six months. Well, I worked all - We've raised the children, me and my wife. Well, I've got one boy that's farming, and he's made. - He's done well. My youngest boy is vice president and cashier at Hart County Bank in Mumfordsville. I have a daughter in Georgia, Marietta Georgia, and she's a secretary down there - has been, for a big business. I'm trying to think of the name for the company. It's a big company, and they ship these products all over the United States. They make parts. It's a iron factory. They make 'em for a lot of obsolete type things - complete obsolete things, like \_\_\_\_\_, her boss was tellin' me when I was down there, they've got an old locomotive down there that was used in the Civil War. You know about that, I suppose, between the North and South, y'know. And they still, now and then mold pieces for that type stuff, y'know, that's of that age - dates way back.

K. LUDDEN

Wow.

DENNISON

VI

And then my other boy - That's just showin' ya the difference. Now my parents wasn't able to do that. They \_\_\_\_\_ even much more than get me through the eighth grade. But the state of the economy, y'know - It just kept on, y'know. And a lot of things like that, that people used to - It was a necessity, in other words. - the extra income. They needed it. Now they've forgot about all that, y'know.

K. LUDDEN

That's how they set their children up in the world? They taught them how to make baskets?

LUDDEN

VIII B)

VI

That's right. You take another thing. \_\_\_\_\_ you take me and my wife. We didn't make no baskets, well, I guess it was around the late thirties when we quit makin' baskets. Only she gave her daughter-in-law and my youngest son - the one that works in the bank - one of the last baskets (Florrie?) made. And it's a nice one. And she gave it to her, Oh, I guess five or six years ago. And she's got that basket. And she wouldn't take nothin' for it. That was the last one she made. But she wasn't makin' 'em then for sale, y'know. She just made that one because she like to make 'em, and it was a pastime. And I fixed the timber for her, y'know. Well, she gave all the children one of 'em. Now none of the children, they never did make no baskets. \_\_\_\_\_ oh, he might have scraped a few splits, or something like that, you know.

K. LUDDEN Were there certain things that the ladies didn't do in making the baskets? Did they not work with the timber at all? Did they wait for you or your sons to rive the splits out and smooth them down?

DENNISON

II A, C

Most of the women would. There might be an exception, now and then, that some of them made the wood. Rive, we called it. \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning, y'know and made it all the way through. But not very often, I know. In fact, I never did see one do it, because it's kind of strenuous work, splittin that oak, y'know, and pullin it apart - them big peices. But after you get 'em down to where they can get to rivin' these splits, then \_\_\_\_\_ But if she worked all day (she could work 'em out, y'know?) My wife used to complain sometimes that her chest would get tired (and her?) shoulders...

K. LUDDEN Because of the draw knife?

DENNISON

II B

That's right. And even weavin', y'know - workin' 'em in and pushin' 'em. Used to have a pad. If I was going to have to scrape these splits. I'd even use it myself, and my wife would. In order to - It wouldn't take long - a pair of pants (put that split down, go to scrapin'?) and the first thing you know, you'd have the whole knee scraped out. That was to protect your clothes, y'know.

K. LUDDEN Whad'dya make the pad out of?

DENNISON

Just cloth. Take it and fold it, oh, maybe three or four times in half \_\_\_\_\_ . The purpose of it was to protect your clothes. 'Cause you would - them splits naturally sink down a little bit, y'know, when you're scrapin'. And you'd scrape - It wouldn't take long. That's what they was for. To protect your clothing.

END OF INTERVIEW