

Interview Log

Interviewee: Marion Hammer Tape #: MAAF/KF/VA/FT1.20.212

Interviewer: Kelly Feltault # of Tapes: 1

Date: 1/20/98 # of Sides: 1.5

Location: Pungoteague Va; in Marion's home

Topic: rug hooking, wool dyeing; creek culture;

Corresponding Photography Log #: MAAF/KF/VA/PS1.20.

Comments: File name: Vaft212.doc. See Fieldnotes: FN01.20.98. *Italics* indicate emphasis; [brackets indicate additional information not on the tape or asides by fieldworker]; "quotations indicate direct transcription."

Marion is a member of the Rug Hooker's Guild and invited me over to see her dye a new batch of wool for a new project. Her neighbor Betty Martin was present as well; Betty was born and raised on the shore, while Marion is a newcomer. The interview was conducted in her kitchen and living room while making and dyeing a wool batch.

BEGIN SIDE A

Onion skin dye batch for previous project; colors to garish and onion skin toned everything down

Describing a rug hanging on her wall; process

Types of wool; gets it from PA; prefers Woolrich brand [hear my camera clicking in background]

Pulling wool out of soaking bath; mixing dye; all described in step-by-step by Marion;

The fun of dyeing things is to experiment; doesn't follow recipes or rules; dyes "by the seat of my pants"

Purpose of salt and vinegar; effects of both;

[moments of dripping and stirring where things are silent]

Betty talking about her new project and dyeing things; where she keeps all her wool;

Ocean City Rug School; attends every year; sees old friends and teachers;

Talking about and describing her other finished rugs; tour of the house and rugs; stories that go with each rug; definitions of her terms like "primitive" and "arty"

Betty and Marion discuss iodized vs non-iodized salt effects; personal preferences; experiences; talk of new project Marion is working on, Turkish carpet pattern;

[photo session going on now too]

what Marion loves about the rugs and rug hooking; loves to get complements on her rugs; everyone is an expert and this is hers;

turns question back to me; "what do you like about your quilt making?"

Betty talks about her mother-in-law and how she spent time with her quilting and cooking;

Marion: cooking and experimenting; all about experimenting; don't gain weight when hooking rugs;

Some history of rug hooking and women's crafts that Marion has learned; urge to create and make house beautiful;

[go into living room to talk while wool boils]

herb dyeing; spot dyeing; diff techniques; natural dyes; betty's experiences with natural dyes; problems with pans and types of metals; technique using the lining of coats, extracting colors from fabric and using as dye; Betty using leaves to make dyes; marigolds;

END SIDE A

BEGIN SIDE B

Freezing cherries etc for natural dyes; what freezing does; geranium leaves and flowers; Marion has samples of all natural dyes she has done;

Talk of the project and its purpose;

Marion teaching second grade and special ed; stories of students; taught them to hood rugs and do natural dyes;

Betty: talking about fishing, crabbing; husband runs a soft crab shedding operation; talk of hard heads [croakers] coming back in the Bay;

Marion: men come on 4th of July and put all sorts of stakes out and check them and by noon they are finished; asking Betty

[Marion lives on the creek, her back yard ends at the creek]

Betty: deep water just across the way; Harry's brother does it; she lives on Onancock Creek; story of how son catching Snapping turtles; selling them to neighbor that worked in D.C.; sold them to guy named Newton who would sell them to the restaurants in D.C; At another time guy came and set traps with stakes and a hook and pretty much cleared out all the snapping turtles around; 15-20 years ago this happened

[dog is snoring in background]

[return to kitchen to check wool dye]

END TAPE