

# Hooking Mats

**COLLECTOR:**           **Gertie Fowler**

**CONTRIBUTOR:**       **Julie Yetman**

**Gertie Fowler:**

Today is January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and ah...my name is Gertie Fowler and I'm here in Red Bay with ah... Julie Ryland Yetman and Julie is gonna share some memories with me now and tell me how she first learned how to mat. Okay Julie would you like to tell me how you first learned how to hook a rug or hook a mat.

**Julie Yetman:**

Well I first learned how to hook a rug when I was home in me teenage days. My momma use to hook mats and I just want to be into it too, whatever I see her doing I'd want my fingers into it.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Julie Yetman:**

So, I got married in '56 and came to Red Bay and from...for twenty five years, I was doing mats for the Handicraft in St. Anthony.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Julie Yetman:**

The....the Grenfell Handicrafts.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh, okay. So now where did your mother get her .... do you know where you mother got her material and that for her mats, what she.....

**Julie Yetman:**

Well whatever you wore, when it was wore out, you just tear it up and put it in a mat.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay, use the material that ah...

**Julie Yetman:**

But she did do mats for the Grenfell, too.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Julie Yetman:**

'Cause she use to tell me about some patterns like "Mary had a Little Lamb".

**Gertie Fowler:**

Is that right?

**Julie Yetman:**

All that picture was in the Mat she said, and different things but I just forgets now what else, but I remembers that, Mary had a Little Lamb.

**Gertie Fowler;**

So when you started now first hooking for the Grenfell how did you get involved in it. How did you first start?

**Julie Yetman:**

Well I done a mat for myself, the second winter that I was married. And my mother-in-law told me that I could hook good enough that I could do it for Grenfell.

**Gertie Fowler;**

Yeah.

**Julie Yetman:**

And Aunt Liza Gibbons had doing with the Grenfell mats then so I went down to her place and she give me one to do. Hardest one she had down there. (laughs) Was Newfoundland and Labrador Map into it.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yeah.

**Julie Yetman:**

So I did that one and she sent it back to the Grenfell in St. Anthony and from that on, they wanted me to go hooking.

**Gertie Fowler:**

You were good enough to do it. So what kind of patterns did you use after that?

**Julie Yetman:**

Well we used the dog team and we used the polar bear and the brown bear. I remember doing one with three brown bears, just walking along, you know. And ah... we did one with the salmon in it and the birds, and you know, different birds.

**Gertie Fowler:**

So did you do them now, like just in your own home? Or did you ...

**Julie Yetman:**

Oh, yes, in our own home. But a scatter time you might go out and give another woman a hand and matting some evening or something like that you know. But not much of that, I did. 'Cause I always had one friend for myself.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay. Do you remember how much you got paid and that for it?

**Julie Yetman:**

Well for the first going off, I 'spose the first probably first five year. I don't know how long, but anyway, we use to get the clothing come.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh. Okay.

**Julie Yetman:**

Every Spring they'd send out their mats and then in the Fall they use to have clothing come in barrels. And each one, each parcel your name was on, whatever parcel was yours, your name was on it, hey.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay. And so whatever was in the bag or that parcel....

**Julie Yetman:**

...was mine.

**Gertie Fowler:**

That's what you earned.

**Julie Yetman:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay.

**Julie Yetman:**

Except for clothes for myself and clothes for the youngsters and ....

**Gertie Fowler:**

So you could pay it...

**Julie Yetman:**

Just write a letter and tell them what you wanted.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Is that right?

**Julie Yetman:**

If you want nightdresses, or underwear or pants or you know coats or whatever you wanted. And they would pick from what your letter and send what they had to send you.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay that's nice. So do you have any memory now of ah...any special mat that you might have done for the Grenfell that meant more to you then what any others did?

**Julie Yetman:**

No, I got a cover on my table there that I got out of my quilt.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Okay. Yeah. So that's ....

**Julie Yetman:**

I made a ....look he was done with that, And I just put this little bit of lace around it and made a topper for my table and that's a good many year ago now.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Oh, Okay. What did you say this was used for?

**Julie Yetman:**

Well it was a quilt.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Is that right?

**Julie Yetman:**

It was a big one for a quilt but it gradually wore out and wore out so then I just took it from my bed and put it there, done it around the edges and put it around my table.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Perfect.

**Julie Yetman:**

That's so good as the ones you have come from Simpson's sure.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Yes. Yeah, you're right.

**Julie Yetman:**

Ah...

**Gertie Fowler:**

So where did it come from you say?

**Julie Yetman:**

Come from St. Anthony, in with the clothing, yeah. Someone made it I guess, hey.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Beautiful.

**Julie Yetman:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

I'll take a picture of that too, now, before I leave, 'cause that's really nice.

**Julie Yetman:**

Yeah.

**Gertie Fowler:**

So is there anything else you'd like to add to it then?

**Julie Yetman:**

Oh, my. Nope. I often, like, thinks to myself, if I could only mat now like I could then. I'd still have one frame.

**Gertie Fowler:**

Would you? Yeah. Well, I'd like to thank you Julie for your memories, they were beautiful. Thank you very much.