

Mat Hooking

COLLECTOR: Marie Marshall

CONTRIBUTOR: Valerie O'Brien

Marie Marshall:

Ah, I'm here at Valerie's, she's doing a mat now that when the tourist comes in she's going to let them do little bits of it. She's going to tell me how she started and what's she's going to do with it.

Valerie O'Brien:

Okay this mat is going to be done by the tourist that come into the area, and who comes to visit my shop, and who ah....visits me for the Coastal Heritage Experience on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

And ah...so I'm going to lash it....I'm going to sew it in and then I'm going to lash it into the sides and then I'm going to tighten it up as tight as I can get it. And when the tourist come here, I'm going to demonstrate how it's done and then I'm going to get them to cut some of the materials such as the easy stockings that they used, or materials t-shirts any old type shirts ah....flannel shirts anything that ... with a little bit of color into it.

I'm going to dye some of the material in berries so that they will see how it's done. And ah...then I'm going to get them to ah...probably dye a couple of pieces and to put it into the mat soand if it takes two years two summers... and when the mat is done well I'll take it and I'll put it into a frame and I'll put it into the visitor center.

Marie Marshall:

Oh. Okay.

Valerie O'Brien:

So that people will see that the tourist can...

Marie Marshall:

You will have a little write up then.

Valerie O'Brien:

That this is the mat.... this old time traditional mat which is just a flower and ah...a few leaves and a little few scrolls that is going to be on the ends and that's all the mats ever was. And they were used on the floor.

Marie Marshall:

Hmmm.....hmmmm.

Valerie O'Brien:

Never for framing, mostly for on the floor to keep your feet warm.

Marie Marshall:

Yeah?

Valerie O'Brien:

So that's what it's going to ah.... when it gets finished that's what I'll probably do with it. It will give tourist a kind of idea of how old and ah....how we try to keep it alive by telling about how it was done.

Marie Marshall:

Explain to them how it was done.

Valerie O'Brien:

Hmmm.....hmmm...in the old days.

Marie Marshall:

Thank you. I'm going to take a picture of that now Valerie.

Valerie O'Brien:

Okay.