

Making Something Out of Nothing
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

Long before recycling became a part of everyday American life, there was a segment of the population that used everything and anything to create useful and decorative items that enhanced their daily existence. This re-use of material objects was widely practiced on the farms and in the homes of Haywood County in years past.

Shiny tin cans and old rusted lard cans were fashioned into flowerpots. Dried corn shucks and pliable tree saplings were woven into baskets and chair bottoms. Bleached flour sacks and multi-colored scraps of material were sewn into curtains, clothing and quilts. Children were taught to amuse themselves with paper dolls cut from discarded catalogs; shoeboxes were fashioned into cars for the paper dolls' imaginary drives.

This tradition continues today in the form of crafts created from discarded items, for example, a stylish tote bag made from weaving together ordinary plastic grocery bags. Ms. Louvern Tucker of Stanton, a retired Haywood County educator, is a master of this art. She makes eye-catching, beautiful jewelry from cardboard. Ms. Tucker is pictured here wearing earrings and a pendant necklace she made.

Ms. Tucker usually has a display of her work at the annual Douglass Festival. Although she rarely offers any craft pieces for sale, she is always willing to patiently share with listeners how she gets her ideas for pieces, what she has found works and what does not. Make sure you come by the Festival, Saturday, August 10, 2019 at the Douglass Community Center to view the beautiful and thought provoking crafts of Ms. Tucker and others.

Readers who know of other Haywood residents who craft or crafted using discarded items are encouraged to share this information with the GMHS at dgrnbrry@aol.com. Pictures are especially welcome., just remember to identify persons in photos.