

EPISODE TITLE: Martin Furniture Works

CIRCA: 1935 – pre WWII

Guest Interview: Dale and Terry Martin

Project: Breakfast Table and Chairs

Status: Initial interview completed

Martin Furniture Works began in the blacksmith shop of Conrad "Coony" Martin in 1935. His son, Howard, made a simple set of wood furniture for his own use. Others liked it and asked him for a set. Soon, this "hobby turned side-business" became the mainstay of the Martin family. WWII interrupted furniture production as the shop was conscripted to make broom, shovel and hoe handles for the war effort. After the war, handle production continued and furniture production resumed.

The simple, durable and inexpensive furniture was popular with schools, restaurants, bars and families in post-war America. Thousands of sets of these tables, chairs and stools were delivered throughout Louisiana and the rest of the country.

The story is told by Dale and Terry Martin, sons of Howard. Dale and Terry operated MFW with their grandfather after their parents' untimely deaths. Video locations will be at Dale's home, Terry's home, the old MFW shop and the MT studio shop.

The model piece is one of the earliest embodiments of their popular dining table and chair sets.



Terry Martin (Left Sitting)
Dale Martin (Center Standing)
Conrad Martin (Right Standing)



Pre-WWII Breakfast Table & Chair