



AN INTERVIEW WITH MARY ANN MEEHAN

I tell you what I used to sell a lot of an' made a right smart lot of change an' I liked to do it, too, which helped. I made candles. My mother knew how to make candles an' I learned how. I made good ones, too, especially my bayberry ones. When you had one of my bayberry candles, you knew it was a bayberry candle... most of 'em don't have any of th' smell of th' berry, I used to make 'em so you jest (*sic*) liked to be near 'em until they was all burnt up."

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... My mother had some molds made of tin an' they'd all be put in a line together, so's there'd be a dozen of 'em, two rows of six on each side. Across th' top an' th' larger end we put two wires, one for each six candles. Then over these wires we put th' wicks that we'd double then we pushed th' ends down through each mold to th' openin' at th' bottom an' then we drew 'em tight. When th' wicks was all in place th' melted tallow was poured in an' I'd let it get cold an' hard. Then I'd cut th' small end an' pull th' wires an' they'd pull th' candles from th' molds an' want hard at tall (*sic*) to slip out.

"People used candles those days most all th' time, for their bed rooms an' to find their way round an' I sold as many as I could make.

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Person Interviewed: Mary Anne Meehan - Irish Cook, Brookfield, Massachusetts

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