



Howard Connor remembers his early days at the wheel(01:09):

H. Connor: Well my daddy started me, mother really, when I was about five or six years old playing on a potters' wheel. She'd sit me up in the, by the wheel...

C. Mack: This was a treadle wheel?

H. Connor: Treadle, yeah, and it started from there. Well now, when I, when I started, the other kids had gone to school, I guess to pacify me and get rid of me, play like mother used to do. She'd carry me to the pottery and he had an extra kick-wheel, and she'd set me up in there. See, the regular potters' wheel is not, you don't sit down...

C. Mack: Right, you stand up.

H. Connor: You stand up, and then she's sit me up in the wheel crib and then she'd fix little pieces of clay and I'd play with it because I have a piece of pottery that I made when I was around five years old and she just glazed it and fired it in the kiln.

Conner learning to turn (01:29):

H. Connor: Candlestick holders, I bet I've made a million because that's the only, when I started to learn to turn, when I got big enough you know, they put me on a wheel about like one the one that's out yonder. They put me on the wheel and he started me off with candlestick holders and I made them until I could see them at night, dream about them, everything else. And I'd beg him, "Dad, let me make something else today." "No, you're not going to make anything else but that, until you've mastered that. When you do, then you can make anything that you want." And that today, I think what's wrong with people that go to teach you to make pottery. They let you make any kind of piece, a teacher will, whatever it turns out to be. "Oh, that's nice, it's a bowl. The next one will be straighter piece." But that's wrong to teach it, to learn to throw. You must take about three or four pounds of clay and handle that first and throw it. Because I could be turning on the potter's wheel, like one gallon jugs and I could talk to you and turn that jug and all and I'll make one, not even thinking. Because I use the same and I use a gauge on my wheel, where they don't, see they don't use it...

