

Basic Detail Report



Caption: A century or more ago rush was cut and gathered for Lambert Hitchcock's chairs in the immediate factory area and also along the banks of the Connecticut river near Wethersfield prison, where convict labor was then used to harvest it. But concentrated industrialization eliminated so many marshlands that remaining quantities are relatively small. Here in the wide reaches of the Montezuma swamps in New York State a family of farmers pursue their annual chore of supplying rush for the Hitchcock Chair Company.

Title Rush Seating Procedures.

Date 1950-1970

Primary Maker Eddie's Photo Center

Medium Photography; gelatin silver prints on paper

Description Series of photographs shows stages in the production of rush-seated chairs, including the harvesting of rush in the Montezuma swamps of New York State, shocks of rush waiting to be moved into the Hitchcock Chair Company barns, bundles of rush stored in the barns, handfuls of rush being fed through a wringer, and rush-seaters at work in the Hitchcock Chair Factory in Riverton. Men and women workers, some of them elderly, are seated at the wooden troughs which hold rushes wrapped in wet burlap. Many wear glasses. They hold unfinished chairs in their laps. A metal pick is used to snap out the

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strands of rush. Loose ends are cut with a knife and packed into the bottom.

Framed pictures hang on the walls of the workroom. Completed chairs are stacked at the sides of the room.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (image height x width): 7 7/8 x 9 5/8in. (20 x 24.4 cm) or smaller Sheet (height x width): 8 x 10in. (20.3 x 25.4cm) or smaller Mount (height x width): 8 1/2 x 11in. (21.6 x 27.9cm) or smaller