ITAL WOMAN, NOW NO

Indian Basket Weaving Demonstrated

Aged Native of Pomo Tribe Shows Ancient Art in State Museum Here

First families of California said it with baskets—baskets for ceremonial use, baskets for gifts, baskets for lovers' tokens, baskets for a hundred daily uses.

An art which was old when '49ers turned the march of empire into California is being demonstrated this week in the state Indian museum by Katunum Kahunum, whose tribe—the Pomo—are considered by collectors among the finest basket weavers in the United States.

Soft Leather Jacket

A native daughter by more generations than she can count, Katunum matches the old deal with the new.

She wears a soft leather jacket with tribal decorations, a crimson beaded headband. But the eagle's feather which pierces this is decorated with an NRA sticker.

Katunum works steadily at her basket, a "three stick" type this time. Three slim, willow wands form the framework, woven into place with pliable grass root. For color design there is "red bud," a tree twig picked at the stage of growth when its bark is scarlet.

Doesn't Know Design

For decoration, Katunum will choose from bright pheasant, woodpecker, meadowlark, mallard feathers before her—soft splashes of yellow, green, red, black and grey.

The design? Katunum doesn't know.

"I'll put that in as the basket grows a little," she replied.

Katunum comes from a rancheria in Yolo county. Pomo are gathered there and in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

"What, apart from bad weaving, do the Pomo do," she was asked.

"Just live," was the answer.