

this scaffold and keep this fire burning until the fish were barbecued.

That's the way they barbecued the fish. Well, then, maybe they'd stay there another night. Next morning, they'd pull out home, you know with all that fish. Once a month there you see, barbecued fish. Oh, I guess three or four hundred maybe more.

(That's a lot of people there isn't it?)

Yes it is. But I don't know how many we attended down there on the river.

How many gatherings. But we were just as anxious as anybody.

(You say the eel was the prize with the boys. Huh?)

Yeah. Now those eels--you couldn't hardly get them. They'd start down the river--they'd go down in a hurry. You know how fast they could swim in the river. See boys running after them, you know, gigging at them, just chasing 'em. And when they get in the deep water, why then, of course they'd have to quit because they couldn't see them. And a lot of times the catfish would go down stream too, huntin' fresh water, you see. That's why they went down the stream. Eel and catfish would be the last ones get killed because they were huntin' fresh water. This poison water would drift on down the stream for about--oh, couple miles, why then it lose its strength and wouldn't hurt the fish from there on.

(Fish heads? And what did they do with 'em?)

They make soup out of fish heads.

(Must've been pretty good.)

It was. And anybody had caught an eel--why the women would skin these eels, you know, and they claim it was good for the hair. They'd tear it up into strips, you know, and tie it on their hair. They claim that it was good for the hair. Now that was one belief that they had. It'd make their hair grow better and prettier and healthier.