

catch drum and carp and buffalo and catfish. But, when you get out of them rocks, why them fish. . . they're not dumb. They know where they get their feed, and they feed up and down through there. But they stay in around them rocks. And so, they're just, them fish are just a lot smarter than what people give them credit for.

MANY KINDS OF TIMBER IN THE RIVER BOTTOMS, MANY USES.

(Them early days, was there lots of timber up and down the Vergris River?)

Yeah, there was. There was quite a bit of timber and in places you'd strike different kinds of oak, water oak and burr oak and there was no red oak in on this river, but there was pecan and water oak, and what they call Mesquite oak. It was kind of a cross between the water oak and the burr oak. There was quite a bit of cottonwood and willow and stuff of that kind.

BUILDING HOUSES - MAKING CLAPBOARD SHINGLES

Well, you could, if you wanted to build you a house, you could put that cottonwood on the inside, why it made -- you would put it up before it begin to dry too much, why, you could build you a good house, put that on the inside, but you had to put it on the inside in order to get-- Well, it would twist, if it dried to much, it would start twisting. It'd twist. You could nail it close enough to where it would work. You could take this oak lumber and build the outside. But build the inside of your house out of that cottonwood and bathe it and then you had as good a house by using the outside walls with this oak. And there was always enough of that that you could get hold of that you could build you a good house or a good barn out of this native timber. . . But you had to learn and you had to have experience to learn how to do this. Ever once in a while you'll see what they call the old trowel and they took them and they put a handle in them. . .