

The band of Indians in the Shawnee Hills did not get to enjoy fishing as did those who lived along the creeks and rivers. The Shawnee Hill country does not have any fishing streams, and they would have to travel quite some distance to the Verdigris or Grand River, to to Cabin Creek. Occasionally, they did go fishing. One time he recalls, an old Indian friend took him to the river to hunt for pearls. The fresh water pearls were used both for ceremonial rites as well as trading stock. Scott had never hunted for pearls and wanted to learn. At the river they would dig in the mud for mussels. A certain place on the bivalve they would insert the point of a sharp knife and the jaws would part exposing the inside. His old companion showed him how to look for a pearl, and also how to cook the meat of the mussel. He says it was hard work as sometimes they had to dive under the water to dig in the mud for the shellfish. He took some of his pearls to a jeweler and sold them for \$32.