

brush.

P: I even heard someone calling beer cans "minnow homes."

W: Well, that probably could be, too. I would go as far as to say that if they were regular metal where they would rust out in a few years I do not think they would hurt as much as some of the others would do, like aluminum.

P: So that is the second reason that [the river has declined]?

W: That is the second reason. The third reason is when subdivisions are built. When the river comes up, it goes out into sloughs. There again, little fish and big fish and everything goes out, and a lot of your little fish will stay out.

P: In Cypress Pond?

W: Yes. All you have got to do is look around. A pond that is left like nature put it there, where there is a lot of shade, a lot of stuff to absorb the moisture and everything, water will stay in there a long time. You clean up everything around it and plant grass around it, and soon that pond is dry. You have seen this happen.

P: I have heard other fishermen say it, but not quite like that. You have done more thinking.

W: That is true. So what do you get when they buy up all these things and subdivide? Really, the county commissioners and [people like that] are to blame, because they let the people come in, and they approved these subdivisions, knowing full well the water is going to rise [during the rainy season].

It reminds me of a story I heard. A guy was talking about these real estate [salesmen] selling land. They had come down on the river on these sloughs where the water had been up and had marked [the water line on] some of the tress. You can tell that the water had been up high. They had to ride their horses down in there because it was kind of boggy. The buyer was riding along with him, and the salesman was telling him all about how beautiful this was and how wild hogs had rooted around on the ground and everything. The buyer saw these marks way up the trees, and he asked the real estate salesman, "What about these marks here?" Well, the dumb real estate salesman thought he was talking about the hog rooting there.

P: Oh, no!

W: He said, "Oh, don't worry about it. That is from the wild hogs' rooting." He just kept trying to sell him, saying "this is beautiful" and "that is beautiful" and whatever. When he got back up to the house and started to get into the