

P: You have really done some thinking about it.

W: Well, let me tell you something else. Last week I went [fishing with my brother]. It was his birthday this past Monday, and he wanted me to go with him and cook meat on the river--just take a frying pan, meal, grease, and salt and pepper.

P: What kind of meal?

W: Corn meal to cook hushpuppies and fish. We were carrying everything--onion, tomato, cucumber, and some water. What we did was we went down on the bank and caught enough fish and cleaned them. Then we put two rocks or logs together on the bank, broke some limbs to put under there, and started a fire to fry the fish. We had not done that in a long time. We used to do it all the time. We would take the frying pan with us just about every time we went fishing, just like the good old days. We would take the frying pan and cook on the river. That was when they were their best, you know.

When we were getting ready to go, he asked, "Where can we catch enough fish? That river is a rising." Perch do not bite much when the river is rising, and neither do the catfish. I said, "We could go to the mouth of the Suwannee, by the Santa Fe, I guess. It has been ten or fifteen years since I been there, but we always used to go there." We used to go up there and catch a bunch of fish right out of the mouth in the clear water around there. But we had not been there in a while, so we went there. Do you believe that we could not see a fish in that river? The only thing we saw was mullet.

P: Oh, no.

W: There used to be lots of little fish--little chubs, stump knockers or black chubs (whichever you call them), red belly, and sand fish--but not a one of them did we see. Not one did we catch, and not one could we see. In the past you would see them going off when we were in our boat. That is all because that river has been torn up and messed up so much.

P: I bet there are a lot of houses.

W: Yes, there are a lot of houses. I know that people have to have a place for recreation; I will agree with that 100 percent. But when you get thousands in one place, like in that river, even though they are stopping at the bridge, by the time that water comes from the bridge on down, it is pretty well polluted all the way. Now, you have to admit that.

P: Oh, yes, I do.