

like one, except it is so much bigger and meatier. You cut the meat from their shoulders, muscles, hands, and head. As I said, we cut several steaks from the head alone. I am talking about steaks an inch thick, just off the top part of the head, because the head was so big like that. They are the ones that have this little thing like a worm in their mouth. They sit there with their mouth open, and the fish thinks it is a worm and comes in.

- P: [Begin new interview session.] This is Cathy Puckett interviewing Billy Wilkerson again at his home in Gilchrist County. The date is August 14, 1982. Billy, I would like to talk about the fish traps.
- W: First of all, the size would probably be beneficial. A catfish trap is about twenty inches in diameter and about five feet long. [You can make them] various lengths. Of course, all the old-timers built them, but you can buy them now in some of the seed and fertilizer [stores]. We used to bait them with corn. We would soak break corn out of the field in water for three days or something like that, until it soured. Then we put it in the basket.
- P: How did you keep it from floating out? Did you put it in a container?
- W: No, just put it in there. It will not come out.
- P: Oh, you mean the whole ear?
- W: Yes, put the whole ear in there.
- P: Okay.
- W: Just drop the whole ear in there. They will eat that corn off the cob.
- P: What kind of fish go after the corn?
- W: Catfish, and pan fish, perch, shell crackers, brim, and whatever. You put that right against the bank. Lay it close to the bank, up under the trees in a likely spot.
- P: Not that deep?
- W: Not very deep. If the river is rising, you put it close to the edge. If the river is falling, you put it farther out because the fish will come to the bank more so than when the river is rising. You put an anchor on, say, a twenty-foot line, or longer if you want it, on one end of the basket, and on the other you always have your muzzle. That muzzle is always pointed downstream because the fish feed upstream always. Of course, use a double muzzle in a catfish or a perch trap. Let them swim upstream, and they swim into it. A double muzzle on a cat trap is to keep them from getting