

AUDIO TAPE INDEX FORM

Contact: Vern and Karla Gebhart

Interviewer: Ronald M. Bruch and Kathleen Schmitt Kline

Interview Date: May 28, 2008

Summary description of tape contents:

Vern Gebhart and his wife, Karla, talk about their history with sturgeon spearing. He tells stories about close calls on thin ice, the amount of sturgeon fishermen increasing, and the changes in the equipment used. Vern also discusses decoy carving with the interviewers, Ronald M. Bruch and Kathleen Schmitt Kline.

Brief Tape Index

Time	Topic
00:05	Introductions.
02:24	When Vern's father and grandfather started fishing. Homemade equipment.
05:18	When Vern started spearing. Vern's mother speared.
05:57	Equipment used and technology today. Where and how deep they fish.
07:55	Most interesting spearing story.
11:33	Where Karla grew up. She used to be scared of the ice but got used to it.
13:01	Weather and thin ice.
17:39	Changes with spear fishing over the years.
18:34	Favorite way to cook sturgeon.
18:59	Vern used to know most people, but more people come from out of town now.
21:27	Spearing as a family tradition. Half day spearing.
24:11	Taverns relying on spearing for income. Water quality.
29:22	Tale of 12 sturgeon in one day. Spearing for economic relief in the 1930s.
34:00	More large sturgeon now than in the past. Lake Winnebago has minimal spawning.
36:18	Large fish mean new scales needed by DNR.
39:21	Decoy carving: when he started, making his own tools, his brother does metal work.
43:48	Types of wood that are easier to work with for decoy carving.
46:42	People who have had success with his decoys.
48:26	Sturgeon are curious-come right up to decoy.
51:58	Sturgeon being stolen in parking lots of weigh stations.
54:22	Fish cleaning ritual.
56:51	Drinking culture in shanties.
58:30	Fish getting away because someone visiting shanty.
59:45	Why Vern's grandfather speared. Spearing was hard work in the past, but not now.
1:05:11	Vern would choose deer hunting over sturgeon spearing now.

1:06:49	Seasonal fishing preferences.
1:10:18	Pushing the rules to get sturgeon: using rods and night fishing.
1:11:10	End of interview.