



Carol Bonnett.

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INTERVIEW
5/14/92

With: Carol Bonnett
432 E.Sherman Ave.,
Fort Atkinson, WI.53538

By: Marilla E.Fuge
Niedecker Comm.
Volunteer

(Mrs. Sadie (Ray) Thompson's maiden name was Bonnett; she was an Aunt to Carol Bonnett with whom this interview is taking place.)

Ray Thompson was, for many years, a commercial carp fisherman on the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong.

family: Cyprinidae
genus & specie: Cyprinus carpio
(Edible fresh water fish)

Henry Niedecker with RAY AND ROSS THOMPSON made up the:
"The Niedecker Thompson Fish Co."

News item: (April 1908): (Jefferson County Union 1983)

A shipment of carp and buffalo fish weighing some 30,000 lbs. shipped to N.Y. City Saturday morning.

Carol reported that:

1912: Ray Thompson's launch, the "Water Lily" with Nick Thompson as skipper, carried 40 passengers. This launch often moored at 518 E.Sherman Ave. River Bank. This launch could pull a barge with large sein. The crew sometimes packed fish in boxes at the east side of the (old) Robert Street Bridge (south bank) which was the Truax property dock.

1913: In August of this year, the "Water Lily" took some 400 passengers to the Order of Eagles annual picnic at the Fountain House. (News item)

1920-1930: The 'heyday' for carp seining. At the end of this time Ray Thompson had his ~~fish~~ing license recinded and the Co. closed. (This is when the State crews took over.)

Carol gave the interviewer several pictures of the "Water Lily", copies of news items, Ray Thompson's business letter-head (He also made fish nets and landing nets.)

Two small photos of "Uncle" Ray's fish catch taken in Arkansas circa - about 1930 -.

NOTE: During the years 1920 - 1930:

Henry Niedecker was 41 - 51 Years old
Lorine Niedecker was 17 - 27 years old.