

Ben (Bernard) Refvik.

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By: Marilla E. Fuge

5/26/92 interview:

Egbert Stonedel built carp ponds off the Bark; fished in Koshko. and in 1932 went in with the Drs. Shearer with first camp at Newville and then to Shearer's home area near south end of Kosk. where there were trout and duck ponds. 1940-1950.

Refvik bought out Stonedel in 1946 - 1952. Stonedel owned equipment.

Gov. Hoard (1888) was influential in bringing the carp into the Kosh. area because the local German people liked them. (Carp originally came to Wisconsin from Germany.)

John Fromader kept his carp in a crib ^{at the Bark / Rock confluence & E. M. / W. Ave. F.A.} which could hold about 20,000 lbs. of fish alive. These cribs were built with 1" X 4" lumber from 3½' tall X 8' wide (square) and sat in the water; they floated on pontoons so they could be raised or lowered at will. Supported by a 1X4 frame below, they looked like this:



ropes used to pull crib onto frame of light metal.

net about 2' to 3'

1920 - 1930 years: There were seven commercial fishermen on Lake Kosh.

At end of this period ^{about} (perhaps) fishing contracts were cancelled - carp (possibly) fished out. ^(Discontent & fishing controls over game fish)

1936 - 1945 years: From a truck's steel tanks, fish were lifted by hoist onto a platform with scale for weighing. Fish were put into 200lb. boxes for weighing and then dumped into the truck's steel tank which could hold 5,000 lbs. Fish then trucked to Milton train station where fish were hauled in ^{covered} boxes to open-topped steel tanks on the train where air was pumped into the tanks along with ice for cooling. Trip to N.Y. via express took about 14 hours. (Like mail cars.)

Refvik believes that cars went to the market area where a Rabbi would bless the load for Kosher purposes.

During the Holiday Season for the Jews, 13 car loads a week with 30,000 to 36,000 lbs of fish each, would be shipped out of Wisconsin. At this time about 13 crews were fishing in Wisconsin.