

Ann Smith: Fishing and Gravelling on the Elk River

AS: And my daddy fished all the time. Him and Sam Birdsong and Daddy fished a lot. They fished with rods, not rods and reels, but they fished with canes, and later in years when I was older they did fish with rods and reels. But his thing was gravelling.

ECS: Ooh.

AS: Where you catch them.

ECS: Now what is gravelling?

AS: Gravelling is where you go down under the water into the holes in the bank and you catch em with your hands and a big hook.

ECS: Oh my goodness.

AS: He was always that was his favorite thing to do, in the way of fishing.

ECS: I have heard people talk about gravelling like that, that they, they not only got hold of a fish, sometimes they'd get hold of a snake.

AS: Sometimes they'd get hold of water dogs too.

ECS: Ooh. Now a water dog looks like a snake, does it not?

AS: It does.