

### *Yahara (Catfish) River Fish Trap*

"The Home of the Badger," an aged pamphlet which recently came into the possession of C. E. Brown and which is believed to be the first printed history of Wisconsin, having been published at "Milwaukie: 1847, by I. A. Hopkins," contains a description of a fish trap at Madison, as follows:

"One thousand pounds of fish were taken with a seine at two hauls in the Fourth Lake at Madison. An Indian braided some willows over a slight fall in the Catfish (Yahara) river, and took 50 barrels of delicious fish in one week."

### *Milford Fish Trap*

The boulder fish dam in the Crawfish river just above Milford, in Jefferson county, was pointed out a few years ago to Charles E. Brown by Robert P. Ferry, of Lake Mills. The water in the river was very high at the time affording no opportunity for an inspection of the dam.

The location of this dam was subsequently reported by Mr. Brown to the writer, who went to observe it in August, 1927. Seen at that time, when a prolonged drought had lowered the stream, the foundation of the stone wier was distinctly discernible. The boulder structure was V-shaped, crossing the stream from north bank to south bank, with the apex downstream, or eastward. At the point of the apex, slightly north of midstream, was an opening, where undoubtedly the bags, fishbaskets or nets of the Indian fishermen were placed, as was their custom, and which further served as an excellent vantage point for the spearing of fish making their way through the narrow passage.

The writer was directed to the trap by Julius Woelfer, of Milford. Mr. Woelfer stated that up until recent times another boulder fish trap, similar to the one still visible, was located about a hundred yards upstream, or westward. This latter dam was no longer intact at the time of my visit but at its reported location many large boulders resembling those that made up the surviving dam further downstream, were still to be seen scattered about in the riverbed.

Mr. Woelfer said these boulder fish dams were made after the manner of construction of the ordinary stone fences still