

Cousin Billy Marsh

This was taped at a restaurant in Knoxville. Billy and Steve grew up together. Aunt Martha and our mother were sisters. There were 7 cousins that were born within one year of each other. They were known as "The Magnificent Seven".

Steve and I were always fishing at the river, or talking about fishing, all the time. One day we were down there at Steve's fishing and a big storm was coming in the distance. We weren't supposed to be down there. We could hear Aunt Zetta calling us, but we hid in a barn and pretended not to hear her. We were afraid to go home and we were afraid to answer her. We could hear her yelling for over an hour. That storm made the river get up so much that we couldn't wade back across the way we come, so we had to walk on the other side all the way up to the river bridge and cross the river there. We started walking back down the river toward the house and could still hear her hollering! I know she was worried sick about us! We got about half way back to the house and we finally answered her. We had been gone for over three hours and she was so worried she was about to die! She met us about half way to the bridge and every time we would stop to rest, she would hit us with a big stick. She had us about beat to death by the time we got back to the house.

When we were kids, Steve and I were big fishermen; he knew all about fishing and was always reading books about fish. There was a big pool of water down in front of Aunt Bertha's old house that we played in all the time. The creek had a lot of rocks in it, and one end was damned up and was pretty deep. One day Steve said we were going to walk out there through them shoals to the shallow parts and fish. I started out by the little bridge there and Steve grabbed me and said, "no, you can't go that way, you have to go in from behind it." Finally he told me why I couldn't walk through the water. He said, "our stinking feet will scare the fish away!"

He did stuff like that all the time.