

Baird - Water?

Arlic - Yeah.

Baird - Yeah go ahead.

Arlic - I imagine that if the truth was known they use the same formula.

Baird - But it tastes just exactly alike. Oh, Blue Ribbon, to me, tastes sweet.

Arlic - Yeah.

Baird - Does it taste sweet to you? I mean women like that. In my opinion, beer to me, to be good, has got to have a bite to it, you know.

Arlic - Taste of the hops.

Baird - Yeah.

Arlic - You know what's funny, when you're a kid growing up you like stuff sweet. The minute you get older you don't like stuff sweet you want something bitter. You get up to a certain age you start liking pepsis or cokes. Which are, cokes reminds a little on the sweet side. Pepsi's got a little more of a tang to it. But then you get to the point you don't like them. Now then you want something that's got kind of a, more of a bitter taste.

Baird - Yeah, like, ah, when I was 21, 22 years old I had to have a drink and I'd mix it with coke or ginger ale or seven up or something, you know something sweet. And now I want my yellowstone in water.

Arlic - Yeah.

Baird - I don't want anything sweet. And when I was a kid I used to drink coffee all the time. I drank coffee ever since I was knee high to a duck and I use to put about four, five teaspoons full of the damn sugar in it.

Arlic - I didn't put sugar in my coffee.

Baird - But now I want just enough sugar in that coffee to knock that bitter taste, just maybe, bearily, well between a half and three quarters of a teaspoon full of sugar. Just a little bit not much.

Arlie - ----- a lot of ----- but I always liked coffee black, but, ah, my wife ----- usually drink one cup of coffee every morning for breakfast that's all, and actually we don't drink nothing else -----, But I tell you used to be up there at home working up there long, 10-12 hour days, usually 12, you got tired, hot and five, five-thirty we used to breakfast, set for five-thirty. We started work about six-thirty seven o'clock when we were suppose to be starting. The first thing you smell, when you woke up, was that hot, strong coffee boiling. That aroma would be running all through that doggone shanty.

Baird - You know if I was building me another house, you remember houses like you use to build way back in the country with oak boards. You'd run them damn things straight up and down, you know vertical, and then put a slab right over the crack?

Arlie - Yeah.

Baird - I'd like to have one of them damn things with an over hanging, maybe about two and a half feet, and a great big rocking chair. ---- tight ----- you know that son-of-a-bitch would be pretty you know.

Arlie - Yeah.

Baird - But it would cost you a fortune to get that kind of lumber now you know it.

Arlie - Sure would. I was talking to a guy up there at home, he's still got a saw mill and a planer, in fact he's got a ----- roof, but, ah, the only, the saw mill man I know up there has got one because, I mean in town I mean there are lumber companies now.

Baird - Yeah, they've all got them there.

Arlie - Ah, but this guy I come around there, I was wanting to buy some, he built him a little house, of course this guy made a cabin, heck of nice then, he had a boy that died back while I was in the high school, heart trouble. My closest friend. They were brothers, two brothers actually, they were so much older than me and weren't around he wanted to put him in some nice oak floor and he wanted to know for how much it would cost him for what he'd need. And figured out I don't know the ----- or how big a house he had but ----- about 52 or 53. He came over and said, well I can get \$250 a thousand for the floor. He told us he don't want pay ----- for this. It was just tire, what you call tire sap, we used to call it, an inch and a quarter lumber that we'd knock off the side of the log in getting down to a square for a tire. Why rather than cut it all off for a slab, why I'd just take off -----the slab, the log was big enough

to make the tire but there'd be enough on the side, actually that you'd be wasting. Then we'd cut off another board there and ah, but, ----- the thing is you've got two saws like that and you set them back and forth and you can run your board through there and it knocks off the two strips on the side. And that tire, at that time ran about \$50 a thousand and now I imagine it runs about \$80. That's just rough lumber and that's ----- but if you've got a doggone ----- you'll take that damn stuff and make yourself some nice doggone, anything you want. He told those guys he don't want to pay no \$250. So I tell you what I'll do ----- no way, he'd take ----- logs and he had ----- truck and he said if you bring the logs around to my mill. He said I'll cut it up for you and run it through. Tell you what. You want \$20 a thousand for sawing it he said ----- pay for \$15. So ----- \$35 a thousand, of course, a man brings his own lumber in the mill. We figure well ----- right there I'd figure it would take 140 X 300, get me about right close to 500 pieces of lumber for the house. So you figure that for a man of like up there most people no money anyhow, but \$250 that's \$125 which the old man just wouldn't had anyway.

Baird - Yeah.

Arllie - But he was able to bring it around there and for about, well it would cost around \$18, \$20. It's hard to believe that doggone tongue groove flooring. Do you know what, tongue groove, I don't know what costs around here but I know what it costs around at home. Tongue groove oak flooring cost you now.

Baird - No, I don't, but it's expensive I know that.

Arllie - Last job I had is \$350 a thousand.

Baird - \$350 a thousand.

Arllie - 35¢ a foot.

Baird - That's a lot of money. You know Arllie when I was a boy we bought rough oak lumber \$4 or \$5 a hundred. I don't know just exactly what it was.

Arllie - Well ----- I know back to about that Thursday night at Bowie I can remember it selling what for, tire sap, rough lumber so, we commonly call it tire sap. It was \$30 a thousand. That was number one grade.

Baird - Yeah, ----- \$3 a hundred. You buy something like that now it didn't cost you a fortune. Where are you going to get it? You know Arllie here a while back I was doing some work around the house, and, ah, well it's been several years ago, but I hit some fur two by fours, then I sawed one off and I set (possibly

dishes clanging, Baird says no not yet), one up in the corner of the house there. Then I went back a couple of weeks later, oh about a month later I guess, and picked the damn thing up. You know that damn thing on the end, a foot up from the ground, it rotted completely and all that was left there was just a few little splinters of those hard rings and that was all that was left of that end. Now you know when I was a boy we used to see those old two by fours and you could take one out and throw it out in the barnyard and that damn thing would lay there for years and it would curl up and get hard as as a damn piece of steel but it wouldn't rot. It would lay there and get just as black and just as hard as a it's ----- and all that stuff, it just ah.

Arlic - ----- which I wanted to see if this brother-in-law of mine, I told him I thought he was full of shit, but he's all true force. Up in East Tennessee, I don't know, something is supposed to be around 70 or 80 miles out of Kingsport. There is supposed to be a boundary of white oak timber. Four or five different outfits had went in there and bought, had tried to work it, couldn't do it, between the rock cliffs and rattlesnakes he couldn't get it. Well I've never seen any (obscene) place yet that I couldn't get that damn shit out of there. Suppose to be first a group of white oak timber.

Baird - How many acres is it?

Arlic - From what he says there is suppose to be somewhere in the neighborhood of around 500 acres. That would be a hell of a lot.

Baird - ----- if you could get you some fencing and fence the damn, put a fence around that and then get you some of the old razorback hogs and turn them damn things loose and they'll take care of your damn snakes.

Arlic - No, they say they won't.

Baird - They won't?

Arlic - They said not hogs. Now he said this my brother-in-law said they was rougher in this area, in this place where we took timber out of over near.

Baird - Well I mean water falls off the cliff you can two or three more of you could take his place but a hog would eat a snake and anything it can get. Did you know that? And it don't make any difference a rattlesnake, copperhead, anything, water-moccasin, they'll eat any kind of a snake they can get.

Arlie - But they had a place over there along side old West Virginia. I tell you if you can cut a damn tree down, maybe halfway up the mountains sometimes closer to the top but when you go to chop the son-of-a-bitch ----- down in the gourds, should do it. You cut that son-of-a-bitch down he's gone, I mean gone and you have to watch ----- because if there's anything for him to hit to split open, you don't want him to do that. He usually toss with ----- notch of one side and tosses around the side of the hill at a certain angle and let it go. And I've seen them things cut them off and they go down them hills hollering. I mean it was that damn steep by hell where you had to hang on with both hands. And let me tell you I was able to practically walk up that damn house out there at that time, and he says it's rougher than that.

Baird - Well I was riding a bus through East Tennessee one time and, ah, past this cornfield one time and I looked out and I swear that thing was on a slope just like that and you could stand down in the lower row and get the corn off a row below you.

Arlie - Oh, yeah, I done that. (Laughs) But I just wanted to say, well the funny thing trees are, of course, if there is an opening on the ground, once the tree gets started it'll run the roots a long time, the wrong way to get water in there and food source in order to get big. But them white oaks, of course, if they don't watch the stem what happens your lumber man, oh, shit, just a minute, a long time ago they up and the law passed in fact, I think it's on the books that only ----- they could use the stays of one half. ----- they have to use more timber now cause it ----- And that's what caused it. But for a white oak you couldn't make stays out of that shit if you wanted to. That's the crookedest damn bunch of shit I ever seen. You can take a white oak, ----- white oak and use ----- at the base ----- and then it'll run straight, it will look real straight, nice ----- I don't know how it looks on making stables, I've never made it on stables out side of grove timber. None of them guys even tried. They said you're wasting your time and I wouldn't doubt it. But you can saw that shit up and you can put it in a nice shady spot where sun can hit it. See sun will draw the boards like it will make them curl and you can put weights on it and everything else and that damn shit will curl up, twist up, snarl up.

Baird - Yeah.