

Food and Community Down the Bay

Mobile, Alabama

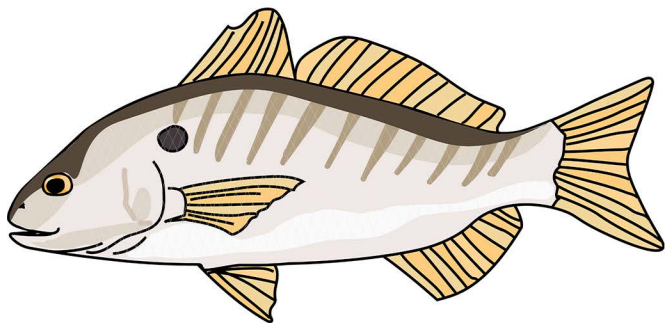
 **Oral
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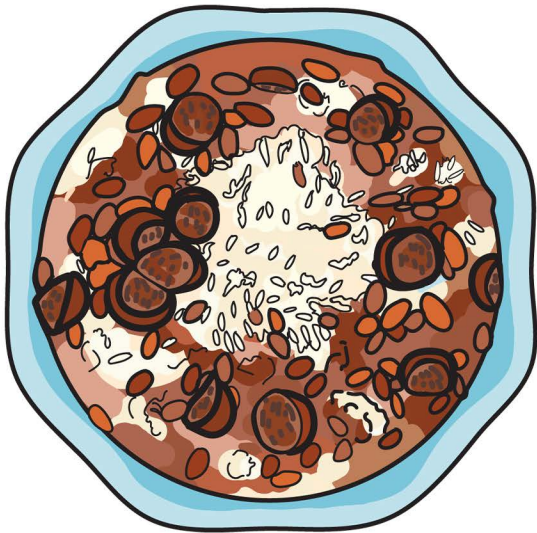
And when the boats come in? We weren't down by the banana boat which came in, but we were down by the bay. And they would give us the fish.



The “trash fish,” they call it... But they would give away the mullets, and throw them off on the banks, and we would get them. . . We would get croakers. And what was called “spots.” We would get spots.

Jamie Hobbs

And I also remember Mardi Gras Down the Bay. Everybody would cook and people would go from house to house, and families came home; it was a homecoming.





Henry Hobdy

During the pecan season, which was around October I guess, you know, pecans fall.

There was a lot of empty lots with pecan trees throughout Mobile. And a group of us would get together and go and pick up the pecans...

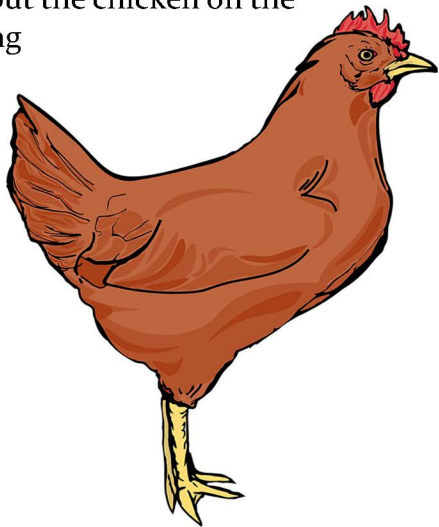


Creola Gibby Ruffin

Down the Bay, you know, people had chickens during that time.

And so on a Saturday, my grandmother would come over and get a chicken out the yard, and wring the chicken's neck, draw a cross on the ground, put the chicken on the ground, and everything else was history.

...We were eating the chicken the next day. So basically, I think my favorite meal was chicken.



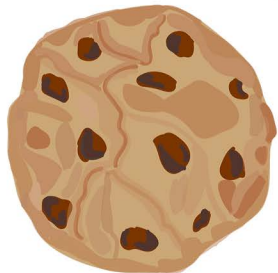
Wali Arif Mustafa

Sometimes we'd stop by Jack's Cookie Place that was on Tennessee and Michigan Avenue. Asked for a nickel of broke-up cookies —[Laughter]—and go to the Rec. Yeah. That was something, man.



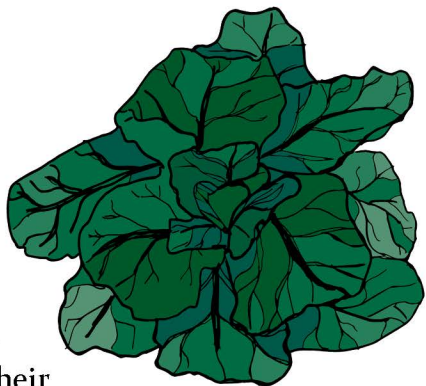
David Smoots

...Jack's Cookie Company, all them places was in this area. And the kids would save their money, and stop in them on the way home. And you know, [[19]] in the evening, you get home, you could have you a box. You could be a salesperson! [Laughter] I wasn't no salesperson. I ate all mine. These big Jack cookies about this big around? Back in the day, they were a penny. You get you a bag—.



Gardening and Foraging

Residents of the Down the Bay neighborhood recalled harvesting and eating many kinds of plants from their gardens and yards! The lists below include a few examples that we collected during our oral history interviews.



Yard foraging

- Pears
- Plums
- Pecans
- Peaches
- Mulberries
- Scuppernong grape arbor

*Created for the Down the Bay Oral
History Project*

*Illustrated & Compiled by Cassandra Bakotic, MFA
March 28th, 2023*

*For more information contact the McCall Library,
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*This bowl was excavated from
Down the Bay. The image shows
a photo of the artifact with an artistic
reconstruction of the missing pieces.*

