

**Lane:** And so then we came back here [to the swamp]. It was either March or April when we started here, trying to figure out how to trap bears here. It was a rough beginning because it was nothing like it was up there [in the mountains]. Our bears are much smarter, we liked to say, than the bears up there.

**Meldon:** (laughing) The bears of the Dismal Swamp are smarter than those at Shenandoah.

**Lane:** At the time, they certainly were, we thought. They [in Shenandoah] could throw things in one of those barrel traps and get them to come in. That didn't happen here [in the swamp]. We had to use the snares. We had to figure them out. It took a little bit of figuring, but we soon caught on.

**Meldon** asks about the process of trapping.

**Lane:** First, you had to find out where they were, what area they were in, what food they were on, if they were on a food, or if they were traveling from wherever they just hung out to a food source. Sometimes that could be crops in the field.

And we would help a lot of farmers, we would trap them. And then using some of those same barrels, once they were tranquilized, put them in there and haul them away somewhere else, you know, to make them feel better that somebody was trying to help them.

And you know, sometimes the bears would come right back, but they weren't as destructive the second time around here, they would. They were much more cautious in their approach.