

LEISURE

AROUND DELTAVILLE

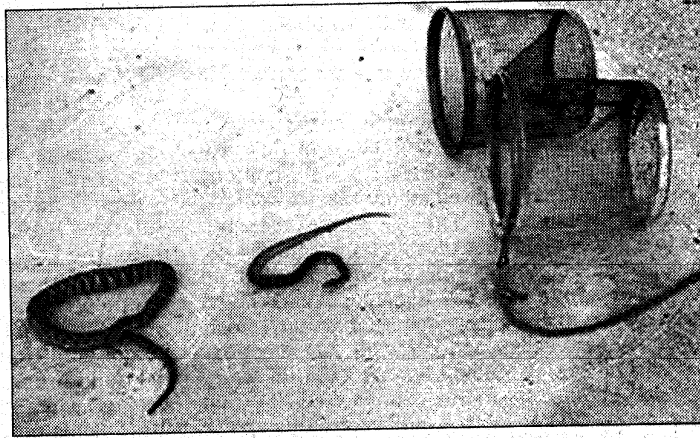
by T.D. Harris

It is going to be anyone's guess if the garden survives this drought we have experienced. Hopefully the rain is not too late. The dogwoods choose to drop their leaves but seem to be alive. I have not watered the garden in fear the well will go dry, but have tried to keep the birdbaths with water in them. They are dry almost before you can get back in the house. Water is a real concern.

Pete Wright called from his car on his way back to Deltaville from Richmond with his snake experiences. He has caught eight copperheads in his minnow trap. When he caught the first one it was certainly a fluke because he was just trying to catch minnows. Evidently, copperheads eat minnows and the snakes go into the trap for them. When they tried to get out, the rough edges of the trap stopped them.

One time there were two copperheads in the trap. They had fought and one had eaten part of the other and then drowned. Another time the snake escaped by pushing where the trap comes together, but Pete now uses a bungee cord to keep it closed. Pete had documented his entire snake trapping success on film.

I was invited to come to his home for more of the story. Pete was going to save one of the dead snakes for me to see. There was no way I could leave The-



Pete Wright's minnow traps also catch copperheads.

resa out of the adventure. When we arrived the hammock was occupied by a lady and, thinking it was Pete's wife, I walked over and introduced us saying that we had come to see the snake that was in the freezer. Sue was very casual about the snake being in the freezer and smiled as we walked up to the house to find

Pete. When Pete came outside so did his wife Pam. Introductions were made and we told Pam we had come to see the snake in the freezer. Pam turned to Pete and asked very calmly if he had a snake in the freezer. She did not smile and I am convinced that the only reason her friend Sue

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smiled is because it was not her freezer.

Before anyone gets upset over the trapping and killing of copperheads let me share that Pam and Pete have grandchildren and dogs they are trying to protect. The snakes are welcome to go elsewhere and, if anyone would like to save the snakes, it looks like Pete has a supply. Pete has given me a mission and shown me how to carry it out. My minnow trap is at the entrance to the boat slip where I have seen the water moccasin.

The deadline for the DCA calendar is the end of August. If you have not sent your information in, call Theresa at 776-6992.