

what I think. The best way to do it is to get lined up with several restaurants.

P: Right. But they can sell them now in restaurants.

W: They might say to the restaurant owner, "We will sell you this gator meat for so-and-so (hush-hush or whatever). We will sell it to you for a dollar a pound less than you can get anywhere else." Well, now, naturally most of the restaurant owners are going to fall right in line.

P: What about the hide?

W: Well, they can throw the hide away. But, now, I maintain this. The thing about it is, the game department made pan fish--that is, lead belly, shell crackers, speckle perch, and others--legal in Okeechobee. You can catch them out at Lake Okeechobee and sell them. It is not illegal.

P: Anybody can?

W: Anybody can. Well, you have to have twenty-five dollars for a license, or something like that. Do you know where Astor or Astor Park is on the St. Johns [River], down out of Ocala?

P: I am not sure. Is it out near Welaka?

W: Welaka? No. Anyway, the last time I was fishing on the St. Johns River, I saw these fisherman pull two baskets up, half as big as this porch. They were about that high and about as long as from here to right here.

P: Can you give the dimensions roughly, because I would like to get it on tape.

W: Well, they were probably twelve foot long and six foot in diameter, and I think it had a muzzle at each end. When they pulled these wire baskets in, I am going to say they probably had 150 to 200 fish in each one. They pulled them up near where my friend and I were. We happened to be sitting at the mouth of a little creek, right where those baskets were--one on one side and one on the other. They just pulled up there and did not pay us a bit of mind. I saw what they were doing, but Sonny said we were not game wardens. That big old basket had a door in each end of it, and they just dumped fish and dumped fish and dumped fish. Now, who is going to say where those fish are going? You know they are not catching them for their families. There is no way.

P: They must have an awfully large family!

W: Well, they had 150 to 200 brim and shell crackers or whatever in each of these baskets. You know they have to be