

Northamptonshire Poacher

When I was bound ap - - pren - - tice in famed North - amp - ton - shire - -
I served my mast - - er tru - - ly for sev - en long - - year, - -
Till I took up to poach - ing as you shall quick - ly hear, - -
For it's my de-light of a shin - y night in the sea - son of the year. - -

Variation verse 2 line 3

For I can wrest-le and fight my boys and jump ov - er a - - ny - where - -

2. As me and my companions were setting of a snare
The gamekeeper was watching us but for him we did not care,
For I can wrestle and fight my boys and jump over anywhere,
For it's my delight of a shiny night in the season of the year.
3. As me and my companions were setting four or five,
And taking of them up again we took the hare alive,
We popped him into a bag my boys and through the wood did steer,
For it's my delight of a shiny night in the season of the year.
4. Now here's good luck to poachers for I do think it fair,
Good luck to every gamekeeper that wants to buy a hare,
Bad luck to every gamekeeper that will not sell his deer,
For it's my delight of a shiny night in the season of the year.

Source: Emily Bishop, Bromsberrow Heath, 1956-1957, collected by Russell Wortley