

Man and Two Boys Fall Victims to New Raid of Shark in Matawan Creek

MATAWAN, July 13—Baffling the cordon of motorboats that was set to catch him after he had slain a man and a boy and badly injured another lad, the man-eating shark that has terrorized the Jersey Coast was still at large this afternoon. Efforts to locate the body of one of his victims were also unsuccessful.

Three more victims were added to the list of bathers who have fallen a prey to the man-eaters in the past two weeks when the shark raided Matawan Creek yesterday afternoon.

Lester Stillwell, twelve years old, was the first victim. W. Stanley Fisher, twenty-five, was mortally injured by the shark when he dove in to recover Stillwell's body. A third victim was claimed a few minutes later when Joseph Dunn, fourteen, of New York, was badly bitten by a shark while swimming in Matawan Creek. Dunn is now in St.

Lester Stillwell and Stanley Fisher, of Matawan, Killed by Man-Eater, and Joseph Dunn, of New York, May Lose a Leg.

Peter's Hospital, New Brunswick, and may lose a leg.

The killings occurred at Wyckoff's dock, a pier that juts out into Matawan Creek about twenty feet at a sharp bend just below the town. The creek is wide at the bend, and Wyckoff's dock is the town swimming hole, being about one hundred yards from the street.

Yesterday afternoon young Stillwell and a party of other boys, including William Hyer, Albert O'Hara,

Charles Van Brunt, Andrew Dublin, and Henry Schencke went down to the dock for a swim. Stillwell had been working all morning, and on the way down he bought a bathing suit which he had long coveted.

Shark Seizes Stillwell

The boys splashed and dived in the creek for half an hour and were just about to leave when Stillwell suggested one more dive. Waiting until the others had dived, the boy leaped in.

All had reached the bank again except Lester and Hyer, when the latter, who was just about to reach the pier, felt a sharp pain in his left leg. Glancing down, he caught a glimpse of a dark monster, and with a cry of terror he kicked out freed himself. As he reached the shore, his leg was stained with blood.

Stillwell was still in the water,

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MAN AND TWO BOYS FALL VICTIMS TO RAID OF SHARK

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and the boys shouted a warning to him to hurry. But they were too late. The shark suddenly seized the boy and dragged him struggling beneath the surface of the water.

Fisher Goes to Rescue

The boys ran up to the town where they told the story of the shark's attack. A crowd of young men at once rushed down to the shore. Among them was W. Stanley Fisher, a powerful swimmer, who at once volunteered to go in after Stillwell's body.

Fishermen in dories and motor-boats were already dragging the bed of the swimming hole with tongs. In half a dozen places the water was in a turmoil from their efforts. Confident in his strength and sure that no shark would remain with such a commotion going on Fisher dived again and again.

As he was turning to the surface from his last dive his feet struck Stillwell's body. Turning himself with a mighty effort, Fisher grasped the body in his arms and kicked his way toward the surface. Hardly had he caught his breath when he saw the shark's fin making straight for him. He kicked out strongly, calling to those in the boats as he did so. Still he kept his grasp of the body.

Fight for Life With Fish

It was in his arms when the man-eater struck. Fisher could see the huge fish as it turned on its side to seize him. He dropped Stillwell's body and fought the shark with hands and feet. He had heard that anything that splashed was safe from sharks. He flayed the water with arms and legs.

Arthur S. Van Buskirk, whose boat was the nearest to Fisher, laid to his oars. Although he was not more than thirty yards away when he first caught sight of the shark's fin, Van Buskirk was too late. Others who were watching from the bank saw him leaping with his fists at the big fish that had him by the right leg.

He actually succeeded in breaking the grip and was floating in the water when Van Buskirk hauled him into the boat. From ankle to knee the bones of his leg were stripped. He did not lose consciousness.

An express train bound for Long Branch was flagged at the Matawan station, and Fisher was rushed to the Monmouth Hospital there, but he died almost immediately. Dr. David C. English, of New Brunswick, was on the train and he treated Fisher.

Shark Gets Another Victim

The alarm had been spread up and down the creek among the boatmen, but families whose homes were not on the creek bank had not heard of the shark. Joseph Dunn was visiting his aunt at Cliffside, about half a mile below Matawan. The warning had not reached his house.

With Jerry Harrihan, a boy of about his own age, he went down to the pier of the New Jersey Brick Company. Thomas Cottrell, a fisherman, coming up from Keyport in his motorboat to aid in the shark hunt, saw the boys swimming near shore and called to them to get out quick. Harrihan was nearest shore and obeyed promptly.

Dunn was swimming toward shore when he was pulled down. Harrihan leaped back into the water when he saw his chum disappear and had towed Dunn almost to shore when Cottrell pulled alongside. The shark had taken one bite and vanished. Dunn's left leg was stripped of flesh.

Dunn was taken to St. Peter's Hospital, New Brunswick, and was put on the operating table last night. The surgeons think his leg can be saved.

From Matawan to Keyport, on Raritan Bay, and even upstream from Matawan the creek swarmed last night with motorboats and dories. Lanterns and flashlights gleamed from bend to bend, for there was some evidence that the shark was still in the stream, and the hunters were resolved to let no chance to bag him escape.

Ernest Dunham, thirteen years old, was also bitten by the shark. He had jumped in to search for Stillwell's body and the shark nipped him. The injury was not serious and he will soon recover. He was taken to his home.

Two Previous Fatalities

Charles Epting Vansant, a son of Dr. E. L. Vansant, of 4038 Spruce street, Philadelphia, was killed July 1, after a struggle with a shark at Beach Haven. The young man, who was an athlete, was able to grapple with the fish and fight his way to shore, where he fell exhausted through loss of blood and died two hours later.

The shark had seized him as he was swimming in the breakers about fifty yards from shore. Friends who were near him in the water believed that his cries for help were meant to attract the attention of a dog with which he had been playing in the water, and did not go to his assistance immediately. Soon the water was stained with blood.

When he was carried ashore it was found that his left leg had been virtually torn from his body. Arteries were severed and the loss of blood was so great that nothing could be done to save his life. He died without regaining consciousness. His friends didn't know what had happened to him until they saw the dorsal fin of a shark above the water. Their rush toward Vansant scared the fish away, and it escaped.

Five days later on July 6, Charles Bruder, an employe at one of the large hotels at Spring Lake, was seized in similar fashion outside the line of breakers and before help could reach him both his legs had been bitten off, one below the knee and the other above the knee.

Bruder was known as a strong swimmer, and the lifeguards paid no particular attention to him when he swam beyond the breakers. His cries attracted the attention of the guards, who went out swiftly in their boat.

"A shark bit me," said Bruder, as he was dragged into the lifeboat. He died ten minutes later. In addition to biting off the man's legs, the shark had bitten him in the side.