

BODY OF BOY VICTIM OF SEA WOLF FOUND AT MATAWAN

Torn and Mangled Corpse of Lester Stillwell Rises to Surface Near Where Shark Dragged Youth to Death---Mother Is Overcome by Shock.

BELIEVE THAT FOUR MONSTERS ARE TRAPPED

MATAWAN, July 14.—The torn and mangled body of Lester Stillwell, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Stillwell, who was killed by a shark in the Matawan creek Wednesday afternoon, was recovered at 5 o'clock this morning about 150 feet west of where it was drawn beneath the water by the treacherous monster of the sea. It was supposed to have been brought to the surface either by the exploding of dynamite in the creek yesterday or by the heavy thundershower of last night.

The body had been horribly chewed by the sea wolf. When it was taken to the Stillwell home on Church street the lad's mother swooned. She was revived only to relapse into unconsciousness.

The body was taken to the funeral parlors of Arrowsmith Brothers, where Fisher's body is awaiting the arrival of his parents from Minneapolis. At the undertaker's it was said young Stillwell's body was in such terrible condition that it could not be preserved longer than tomorrow afternoon, when it is likely the funeral will be held. The boy's face was untouched, but his left ankle, his right hip, his abdomen, his right breast and left shoulder had been torn away. County Physician Neahr was notified of the recovery of the body but said he would be unable to view it until tonight.

Because of the fact that the body floated to the top so near where the boy was seized by the shark, it is believed that the grappling attempted on the afternoon of the tragedy was not very thorough done.

Told of Boy's Body in Shark.

Yesterday afternoon a false report spread thru Keyport and Keanesburg that a shark 11 feet long, weighing 300 pounds, had been killed at the mouth of Matawan creek. Captain Collins, a fisherman of Keanesburg, telephoned the news to W. L. Martin, the cooperating observer of the United States Weather bureau at Long Branch. The report also had it that when the shark was opened parts of a boy's body were found.

Martin telephoned this report to the New York office of the weather bureau and it was widely circulated in the city in the afternoon. Reports from fishermen in Raritan bay that they had seven or eight sharks were also circulated, but could not be corroborated.

More Sharks at Matawan.

On the scene of Wednesday's tragedy four large sharks were seen by several persons at 6 o'clock last evening. They were swimming up the creek with the tide. Townspeople led by Edwin Burns, Norman Tyne, Millie Gorman, Charley Tice and Tony Guss, immediately stretched a wire net weighted with iron across the creek under the Central railroad of New Jersey trestle.

Instructions were that all four sharks were above the net. The water there is eight feet deep at high tide and about a foot at low. Unless they pass the net the 16 fish will be left stranded in the marshes above the trestle. Armed with shot guns and revolvers, 20 men waited last night in the path hoping to kill the sharks if they were stopped by the net.

The arrival of the shark quarter last evening was discovered exactly in the same manner as was the blue fish that caused Wednesday's casualties. Ralph Cliff, A. P. Davis and Harry Macbeth of Matawan, who had been patrolling the creek all day in a motor boat, searching for the body of Lester Stillwell, saw four large objects ahead of them at the trolley viaduct, about half a mile below Matawan.

Chased and Fired at Monsters.

Gull, who was at the wheel, shot the motorboat ahead. There was a swirl in the water ahead. The sharks disappeared a few minutes, then reappeared farther upstream. The chase continued on to Malvern. The men in the boat shouted and fired several shots to give the alarm to the watchmen at Wyckoff's wharf, where the Stillwell boy was hoisted. Townspeople ran to the railroad trestle and to the Mayon Drive bridge, 200 yards upstream.

From the underpinning of the trestle Mike Gorman saw the tail of one shark, while a score of small boys on the bridge further up observed separately they had seen no less than three. This was corroborated by other observers.

The creek at Wyckoff's dock and for several yards each side was dragged with cypher traps all Wednesday night for the Stillwell boy's body. Seven charges of dynamite also were set off in the hope of bringing the body to the surface and possibly killing the shark. A few intermittent showers were shed yesterday but they were chiefly for mo-

then picture purveyor.

Until last evening, when the four sharks were seen coming up the inlet, no effort was made to prevent the escape of the monster responsible for Wednesday's attacks. A section gang of the trolley drawbridge, stretched a rope net across the creek Wednesday night but took it up yesterday morning.

A reporter went down the creek in a motorboat from Matawan to Keyport and found for a clear mile and a half no sign of a set or any other obstacle in the creek to prevent the shark from getting out. In Keyport and Isanahburg no organized search party was at work. Arthur VanBuerck, town recorder of Keyport, who was at Matawan and helped to take W. Stanley Fisher ashore after the shark bit him, was the most active hunter. The other townspeople seemed to take only an onlooker's interest—but they carefully stayed away from the bathing places.

Fisher was the victim who died of his wounds in the Monmouth Memorial hospital. He was the son of Walter H. Fisher, former commander of the Savannah Steamship line.

Joseph Dunn, the 10-year-old boy who was literally snatched from the jaws of the shark at Matawan by his companions, is reported to be still in a serious condition at St. Peter's hospital, New Brunswick. The physicians are holding out hopes for his recovery if infection does not set in. The shark sank his teeth in Joseph's left leg.

Says He Felt Shark Tug.

The Dunn boy lives at 121 East 125th street, Manhattan. His brother, Michael, 10 years old, who was swimming in the creek with him, told yesterday how he had helped save Joseph from death.

"I heard the cry and saw him going under the water," Michael said. "I rushed out to him with Jerry Houshman and two of the other fellows. We pulled him out in time. We could feel the shark tug at him so we pulled him away and swam to shore."

Dr. H. H. Reynolds of Matawan, who attended Fisher before he was taken to the hospital, believes that the bite of a shark is poisonous and that because of this the Dunn boy cannot recover. He plans to consult a shark expert today to confirm his belief. Dr. Reynolds holds that there is a poison on the shark's teeth which enters the pores around the bite and makes the bite poisonous in a few minutes.

Persons who claim to be familiar with the habits of sharks declare that they are known to return to the scene of their last evening's feast. Accordingly, preparations have been made for an especially vigorous effort to capture the shark this afternoon. The authorities of Keyport and Matawan think they have blocked the creek sufficiently to catch them today at low tide. It is now believed that the four sharks which have been making a morning meal of a deep hole at what was used as a steamerboat landing 60 years ago, near the old homestead, above where Wednesday's tragedy took place. The laymen think that the sharks have been going to and out the creek for some time, and that only chance has prevented similar tragedies.

A rope has been stretched across the creek with a pulley in the center, thru which is run a line baited with a huge chunk of meat. It is hoped to catch one of the sharks on this.

Moving picture men were here yesterday taking pictures of the creek while the dynamiting was going on. Hundreds of nightbirds came in abundance and on foot.

Big Shark Taken.

Two fishermen at Silverhook, L. I., landed a 10-foot shark which took and line from a motorboat. Capt. Anton Lundy of the fishing boat of the same name towed the carcass of a 17-foot, 350-pound specimen to Silverhook today. It was captured Wednesday three miles off Spitzkop.

Such sharks are often common in waters about New York at this season of the year, when they come in to
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John, was said yesterday by Dr. C. H. Townsend, director of the Aquarium, and by Dr. John T. Nichols, assistant curator at the American Museum of Natural History, in charge of the department of recent fishes. Dr. Townsend said that every year about the middle of June the sharks begin to move north and stay until the middle of September.

Danger Always Present.

"The surprising thing about this," Dr. Townsend said, "is that we have never had serious trouble from them before. They are of 18 to 20 different kinds, ranging from 10 to 10 feet. Whether the sharks along the Jersey coast that have been causing so much trouble are of a new kind or simply a few bad ones that have never visited human flesh before is impossible to say. Danger from them, however, is always present.

Mr. Nichols went to Matawan yesterday to study the shark situation, hoping to be successful if the ruler of Woodstock was captured. He said that the ordinary or ground shark, known as the Carolinian, are very common in New York and New Jersey waters.

"These sharks are usually about six or seven foot long and they are usually females that come into bays or inlets to spawn," Mr. Nichols said in a report. "The males are larger and usually stay further offshore. There are generally about 20 females to one male.

"Whether these sharks are male or not is impossible to say. Personally I wouldn't like to try it. Still there is no authentic record of such such a shark ever having attacked a man except when cornered in a net.

"It is a striking fact that the greatest expert on sharks in this country, Dr. Frederick A. Lucas, director of the museum, is also the greatest skeptic about them. He has been trying nearly years to obtain proof of genuine danger from the ordinary sharks."

Gulprit May Be Astray.

Mr. Nichols is working, however, on the theory that a single white shark that has strayed about 300 miles north of his habitat is responsible for all the recent attacks upon men in this neighborhood. He Nichols said that if this shark should journey up this far, it is quite probable that he would keep moving from place to place.

"The white shark is one of the man-eating varieties," he said. "His ordinary food is sea turtle, but he has been known frequently to attack and eat men in tropical waters. The white sharks seldom come north of Cape Hatteras, but one has been found as far north as Wood's Hole, Mass., on Buzzard's bay.

"The white shark is quite commonly 30 feet long, of a pale grayish color. He has broad, triangular teeth, which are the same above and below, and are about half an inch long. Another man-eating shark, which may have been the kind that went into Matawan creek is the tiger shark. He has a blunt head, is slonderer and generally grander than the white shark, but also inhabits tropical waters. He has a broad tooth with a very irregular edge and a notch under the top. He is generally about 10 feet long, but often runs to 20 or 30 feet."

Birds May Indicate Solution.

Fishermen along the Jersey coast yesterday pointed out that around Atlantic Highlands are usually large flocks of Mother Carey's chickens, an offshore bird which generally comes inland with an ocean drift. This may indicate a change in ocean currents which has brought the warm water sharks close to the coast.

Another theory advanced yesterday which received considerable circulation in the the attacks on men at Beach Haven, Spring Lake and Matawan, were not by a shark at all, but by a killer-whale or orca, a large mammal, which lives on the tongues and soft parts of the mouths of ordinary whales. The orca is commonly 30 feet long, has a big fin at the back and short, stumpy teeth which are very efficacious in dragging things under the surface. He also feeds on seals, which he swallows whole.

Killer-whales have been known to come into inlets, but there is no authentic record of their having attacked men. When this theory was put up to Mr. Nichols at Matawan yesterday he smiled and said it might be possible.

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