

# FUTILE EFFORTS TO CAPTURE SHARK SLAYER OF LAD AND MAN

**Dynamite and Nets Fail to Nab  
Maneater or Recover Body  
of Boy Killed at Matawan.  
Would-Be Rescuer Fatally  
Bitten Attempting to Snatch  
Youth From Jaws of Monster.**

**WILL SAVE THE LEG OF  
OTHER YOUTH INJURED**

MATAWAN, July 13.—Vigorous efforts to capture the shark which yesterday afternoon killed 12-year-old Lester Stillwell, bit W. Stanley Fisher, 25, so badly that he died later in the Long Branch hospital, and tore off the calf of the leg of Joseph R. Dunn, 10, have been unavailing up to noon today. Dynamiting of the creek has failed either to bring to the surface the body of young Stillwell, which was drawn beneath the water by the shark, or to stun the shark as was hoped and cause its body to float to the top of the water. The mouth of the Matawan creek, in which the double tragedy occurred, has been effectually closed with wire nets stretched across the narrows where it enters the Raritan bay and it is believed the big fish is still in the creek.

The dynamiting was begun last night after fishermen had stretched three wire nets, fastened together, across the creek, and was continued at intervals thruout the night and again this morning. Hope that the Stillwell boy's body will be recovered has been practically given up, as most people believe it was chewed to pieces by the shark. The theory is, however, that the shock of the explosions will stun the shark or burst the gill inside its body and cause it to rise to the surface.

The creek was patrolled thruout the night by men in boats armed with rifles and harpoons. It was believed that at low tide the shark would be discovered and destroyed, but no sign of the creature has been seen.

The Stillwell lad and young Fisher were both of Matawan. The Dunn boy was from New York. Stillwell had dived into the creek behind the Matawan basket factory, where he was employed, along with his brother and Albert O'Hara. The others saw him struggle and go down and O'Hara declares the shark struck him with its tail. They spread the alarm, and men from the town hurried to the scene.

### Fisher Saw Shark.

Fisher and a companion went out in a rowboat to see if they could locate Stillwell's body. They did not believe the shark story but thought the boy had been seized with cramps. Fisher removed his clothing and dove into the water. He told The Press correspondent before he was taken to the hospital that he had seen Stillwell's body with the shark still chewing away at it and had attempted to grab it. This infuriated the fish and it turned on Fisher.

Both of these attacks occurred about a mile and a half from the mouth of the creek. It was nearly half an hour later that young Dunn entered the water a half mile down the stream. He had not heard of the other incident. It is believed he was attacked by the same shark returning toward the ocean.

### Dunn Boy Will Recover.

The Dunn boy will likely recover without serious effects. It was said this morning at St. Peter's hospital, New Brunswick, where he was taken following the attack. It is confidently expected that his leg will be saved.

At the hospital Dunn said that he didn't see the shark at all. He was in water about 10 feet deep, he said, when the shark attacked him. "I felt my leg going down its throat," he said shiveringly; "I believe it would have swallowed me."

Fisher died at the Long Branch hospital last night after his left leg had been amputated just below the hip. Today his body was brought to the undertaking parlors of Arrowsmith Brothers here. The undertaker said this morning that the laceration on Fisher's leg extended from his kneecap to his hip and was 14 inches in width. There were other marks on his leg which appeared to have been made by the fish's teeth, and several which looked as tho he had been struck by its fins.

Young Fisher was universally liked here and his death has cast gloom over the entire community. He attended regularly the local Methodist church and was of fine character. His parents, who started last night to return from the middle west, are expected home on the midnight train tomorrow or early Saturday morning. His body will be held at the undertaker's until their return, and the funeral probably will be held Saturday afternoon.

Two more sharks were caught at Morgau, on the bay near here, yesterday. One of them was 11 and the other 5½ feet long.

Joseph Dunn, aged 12, of Matawan, bathing about 400 yards below where Stillwell disappeared, was the third to

(Continued on Page Two.)

# FUTILE EFFORTS TO GET SHARK SLAYER

(Continued from Page One)

he attacked by the ferocious fish. The shark snipped the flesh from Dunn's leg below the knee. Dunn cried for help and Jacob H. Loffelt, who was fishing from a rowboat nearby, went to his aid. The fish was scared away and Dunn went ashore in Loffelt's boat. He was taken to St. Peter's hospital at New Brunswick.

People who say they were eye-witnesses, from shore and nearby points in the water, of the attack on Stillwell described the scene. The water is quite deep where the boy had been bathing. Two young companions, Jonathan Carter and Frank Brown, were with Stillwell in the water and were only a few feet away when they heard him cry out in alarm. Another boy named O'Hara, who was close by Stillwell when he went down, said he had been struck by the shark's tail.

## Boy Fights Valiantly.

Stillwell was struggling furiously, the boys said. Suddenly he disappeared below the surface of the water. So far no one could be located so one saw the fish in its light with the boy. Several sea swimmers hurried to the spot where Stillwell was last seen. They say the water was crimson with blood.

The boy was the son of William Stillwell, an employe in the Anderson saw mill.

Crowds of people from Matawan went to the river side after word of the first accident, which took place at about 2 o'clock, had been brought to the town. Fisher, who is a son of Captain Watson H. Fisher, retired, of the Savannah steamship line, and Smith were among the first comers. With George Lindow they took a rowboat and went to seek Stillwell's body.

## Don't Believe Shark Story.

Fisher and his companions did not believe the Stillwell had had been killed by a shark. It was said, but thought he had gone down with cramps. They cruised about in the boat for some time and then Fisher and Smith dived and dived into the water. Fisher came up after his first dive and declared he had seen Stillwell's body lying on the bottom. He dived again. When he came to the surface again, Smith and Birlew heard him shriek:

"He's got me! The shark's got me!"

Both Birlew and Smith went to aid Fisher. Arthur VanBuckling, police recorder at Keyport, was in another boat nearby, and he, too, rowed to where Fisher was struggling with the monster.

Fisher fought bravely, striking at the monster, but was fast weakening when VanBuckling threw a rope to him. The infuriated fish, scared by the appearance of the men and their shouts, darted away, tearing in its jaws a huge piece of flesh which it had ripped from Fisher's side. The man's right side, from the hip to his knee, was sliced away.

Weak from the loss of blood, the still conscious, Fisher was carried ashore in VanBuckling's boat. He was taken in a stretcher to a hospital, which placed several of its regular steps in hurrying him to the Long Branch hospital. His leg was amputated below the hip at the hospital. The wound had been a terrible one and Fisher suffered excruciating pain. He asked for something to relieve his sufferings and this, combined with death came at 7:35 o'clock. Dr. G. E. Reynolds of Matawan accompanied Fisher to the hospital.

According to several witnesses of the attack on Fisher, the latter had gripped Stillwell's body when the shark grabbed at him. To save himself he dropped the boy's form. It was declared, and rose to the surface floating the sea animal. Others who were nearby did not see Stillwell's body.

### Shark Sighted.

At two points on the river, it was located last night. The shark had been sighted earlier in the day. Workmen of the new Matawan creek drawbridge say they saw the monster in haste as they were before the tragedy, and Captain Thomas V. Cottrell, a Keyport fisherman, spotted the fish at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, while he was standing on his dock at Keyport. Cottrell, it is said, put out in a motor boat to warn bathers along the river of the presence of the shark. He either did not reach the point where Stillwell and his companions were swimming or he passed there before they arrived. Captain Cottrell, who has seen many sharks, caught a glimpse of the non-enter's fin as it skimmed along the water. The fish was headed upstream.

The Stillwell boy had been working in a punch bucket factory at Matawan. He was working on "plate work," and shortly before two o'clock he finished his day's work, having completed 150 punch buckets. The heat led him to seek a cool dip in the river. He was slender of build and able to swim. The tide was coming in the river at 2 o'clock, and the water where Stillwell went down was then about 28 feet deep, it is said. The creek there is only 16 feet wide at high tide.

Pinker was about 25 years old. His father and mother have been visiting their daughter in Atlantic City. They started for home into yesterday. Before news of the tragedy could be got to them and are believed to be still ignorant of their son's death. Young Pinker was a big fellow, of an appearance. He had friends in Asbury Park, among them Scoley Gade, a son of George D. Gade, of the Atlantic Coast Electric railway. Pinker's father was a commander of the navy and had the honor to give the son.

A huge crowd lined both of the bank of the creek last night, searching for the Stillwell body and for the hideous sea creature. In the crowd were men armed with spears and whips and volunteer fireboat parties patrolled the creek from end to end in the hope of finding and slaying the shark.

A wire net has been stretched all down across the river mouth at Keyport. If the shark is still in the river he will not be able to get back into the deep waters of Harkins bay. All bathing in the creek and, in fact, all along the shores of Harkins bay has been prohibited until the bathing beach authorities can protect their grounds with wire netting.

Commissioner John W. Weseman of the Keyport Yacht club, who was at one time state custodian, has announced that he will permit no more bathing at the Yacht club grounds until after they have been enclosed with wire netting.

The attack on Dunn came, apparently, about an hour after Stillwell and Fisher had been bitten by the shark. The place where Dunn was swimming, 400 yards away from the scene of the first

attack, was beyond a bend in the creek and out of sight of the persons who gathered about the point where Stillwell went down. Dunn, who was with an elder brother, did not know of the other attack, it is believed.

Dynamite was exploded on the shores of the creek last night in an effort to raise Stillwell's body, if it remains in the stream. The creek is a broad, winding bay opening at Keyport, three miles east of here, on placid Harkins bay. The creek pursues an "S" course from Keyport to Matawan. Boats bearing vegetables and fruit for the New York markets pass down the creek from Matawan every night in summer.

Many expressed the belief that the shark which entered the creek yesterday is the same one that killed bathers at Spring Lake and Beach Haven last week.