

# SEARCHERS FIND BODY OF MISSING OHIO SCIENTIST

Hamilton Weller, Cincinnati, Found by Searchers Wednesday Morning. Had Been Dead for Over Thirty-six Hours. Tragedy Occurred in Avery County Monday. Body Had Washed Down Stream.

(Columbus News-Tribune)

The body of Hamilton Weller, 37-year-old science student of Cincinnati, Ohio, was discovered, washed down the stream of the Rock Stack Branch, near Grandfather Mountain, yesterday (June 24), and a coroner's jury reached a verdict that the death was killed by lightning. R. W. Wall, of Newland, was acting coroner for the inquest.

Searching parties had combed the Grandfather Mountain for two nights and part of two days in a fruitless effort to locate the young man, believed to have become lost in the mountain recesses.

Weller was among a group of eight students of science in a party headed by Dr. J. S. Boer, representing the Museum of Natural History of Cincinnati, which was conducting a geological camp was pitched Sunday night at McAra's store at the foot of the Grandfather Mountain and the first venture into the woods and streams was completed Monday.

In the early afternoon the group went up the east side of the mountain in search of the specimens and about three o'clock a fierce hail and rain storm began. Thinking that the young Weller was close behind them, the party stopped under some overhanging rocks until the storm subsided. After the storm they continued down to their camp expecting Weller to come in at any minute.

When the evening meal was prepared and Weller still had not returned, Dr. Boer became worried and began a search. After searching through the night the party returned and began again Tuesday morning with the aid of groups of boys who lived in that section and knew the mountain. The search continued until about 10 o'clock Wednesday morning when Weller was found dead in Rock Stack Branch about two and one-half miles from McAra's store and about a hundred and fifty yards from the Yonahlossee Highway.

The body was discovered by Grace Calhoun, of Linville. It was wedged between two rocks in the stream. Several indications of the lightning bolt were seen on the

had come to the top of a large rock on the side of the stream and had lost his balance. In attempting to catch himself he had broken some small bushes which grew there. He fell off the stone which was about forty feet high and struck the stones below head-foremost, fracturing his skull above the left eye and breaking his neck.

The search for the boy was conducted in a very rugged manner. Instead of beginning immediately with someone who knew the mountain section in which the tragedy occurred the inexperienced group started searching and further and was not obtained until Tuesday. A small party which became larger as time passed brought hundreds of searchers from the surrounding country in an endeavor to find the youth.

Belief that the boy was not injured but merely lost was held until a late hour Tuesday.

This was the third time the boy had been in that section and all in the party thought he was well acquainted with the surroundings. Rock Stack Branch, in which the body was found, is one of the most rugged and secluded streams in the section. The searchers were forced to cover the ground a few inches at a time because of the thick undergrowth. In getting the body out it was necessary to cut a path leading from the high camp to the scene of the accident.

Huge rocks, waterfalls and many other growths of trees, weeds and brush kept searchers from finding the body previously. No way for him to have reached the creek from which he fell could be found except by crawling. It was felt.

The youth met his death soon after becoming lost, it was thought. On the east side of the mountain runs the Yonahlossee Highway. On the north side runs a small trail on which workmen were hauling out lumber and on the west side the narrow-gauge East Tennessee railroad. On the south side runs a trail which leads to the highway. All of these methods of exit show plainly that he had not wandered very long after losing his way because he had not reached any of them.

At a late hour Wednesday search parties who had gone into the mountain sections early in the morning were still combing the woods in an effort to find young Weller.

Acting Coroner Wall, of Newland, expressed the fear that the boy had been dead for about thirty-six hours.

The accident involving Weller is believed to have occurred Wednesday and that chance of the body.

The tragedy was the second of its kind to occur within three days. Six

## Training Ordered for Deaf, Blind in Russia

Moscow, Russia.—The government issued a decree Sunday calling for the compulsory education of children who are blind, deaf, mute, crippled and mentally deficient in order that they might do something useful for their country.

Under the decree, made public by Andrew Bubnoff, commissar of education, the training of youthful defectives is expected to be working fully by 1934.

In the Soviet Union there now are listed 11,265 deaf and mute children. Of these 6,000 already are being trained. Three thousand of 7,308 blind children are being educated and some 20,000 of the 325,000 mental defectives are being trained.

The government believes the training of this element will assist in solving the labor shortage problem.

Friday Miss Lillian Arnsperger was swept over Glen Bernie Falls near Boone, N. C., attempting to save the life of a ten-year-old girl.

## OAK TREE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO LIGHTNING; BEECH LEAST

Kent, Ohio.—To seek shelter under an oak tree during a thunder storm is almost as dangerous as to search for gasoline with a lighted match. Of all trees, the oak is most susceptible to lightning.

So says a bulletin issued by the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery, which has been studying the phenomena of lightning in relation to trees.

If you never get under a tree, says the Davey Institute, find a beech, for it is rarely ever the victim of lightning. The ratio of the oak to the beech in being struck by an electrical bolt is 60 to 1, according to observations made over a period of years.

The roots of a tree tap the electrical field of the ground. When a

storm cloud is overhead the positive electricity in it is attracted by the negative electricity in the earth and lightning follows.

Trees such as the oak, which have a large root area naturally have larger electrical fields than others. Oaks also have "flat" roots, which go far into the ground and bring up large quantities of water to the tree, which serves as another attraction for lightning.

The best advice, however, is to avoid trees altogether during lightning flashes.

## May Market Dogwood At Profitable Prices

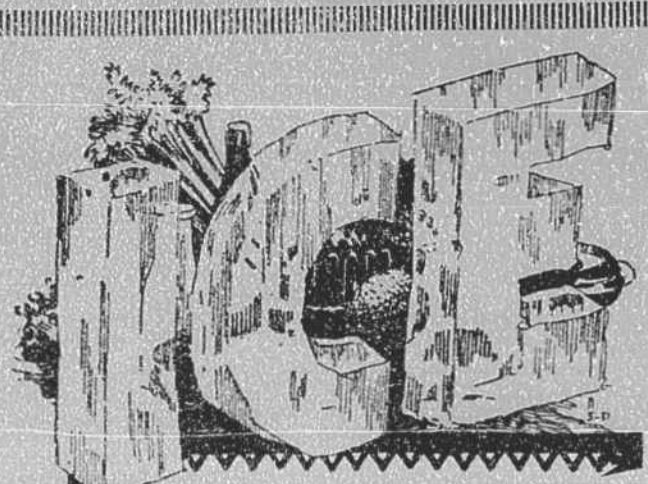
The dogwood is not only a well known tree, it may be harvested and sold to advantage by selecting the mature trees and saving the others for beautifying the landscape.

The dogwood tree has many and varied uses, says R. W. Glauber, extension forester at State College. The textile industry is dependent upon it for shuffles and there are a number of small lumber plants in Piedmont and Western North Carolina which furnish a market for this tree every year. Some of these are

manufactured by others are moved from one place where material is available. High Point is one center of the industry but plants at Statesville, Wigginsboro and Murphy have handled large quantities. The plant at Statesville has had about \$100,000 worth of lumber in the last six years. Around Wigginsboro about one-half of the amount has been produced in the lumber in the same period.

Highly branched dogwoods are used for good handles of all kinds, especially down pins, and other wood manufacturing items. The tree grows on different soil types in the State and on the stonger soil types the commercial size. Only those trees which have reached a size of five to six feet in height are suitable for use. The younger, smaller trees will be left to furnish the rot of the wood which is composed of a

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