



The Franklin Press

Recall Heroic Rescue Done In North Carolina Mountains

Death of Charlie Wright Revives Story of Thrilling Heroism on Cliff on Whiteside Mountain.

Highlands, Feb. 11.—The recent death of Charles N. Wright, of Highlands, in a fall in an automobile down a steep cliff near Lake Toxaway, almost within sight of Whiteside mountain, recalls vividly to the minds of Macon county residents the details of the thrilling rescue made on the mountainside by Wright and W. M. Dillard of Gus Baty, of Highlands, in 1911.

Dillard is a farmer of Dillard, Ga., now, and remembers the accident which came near costing the life of Baty and which brought fame to Wright and Dillard in the form of \$2,000 awards from the Carnegie foundation and medals for their heroism.

Baty is a carpenter at Highlands, and never has forgotten a detail of the rescue.

"So far as I know, unless they have been worn away by time, my necktie and some belongings I had in my pockets when I went over the side of the cliff and hung to a rhododendron bush, still are there. I don't know of anybody who wants to go there to find out," Baty said. He could not say enough in tribute to the bravery of his rescuers.

Visitors frequently go to Whiteside mountain and stop to pause in won-

dered amazement at the story of what happened. "Mr. Baty and some of the others had been standing on the rock, viewing the scenery with a spy glass, when in a moment of dizziness, he made a false step and stepped on the projecting rock. The cry was: 'Gus Baty had fallen off the rock!' he slipped through just there and shot like an arrow down the cliff. 'Oh, Lord, he's killed, he's killed,' was the cry. Just then one of the girls fainted.

"Charlie Wright ran out on the rock, looked and saw Baty hanging over the edge of the precipice some 150 or 160 feet below, holding onto a scrub bush of rhododendron—white below him the perpendicular rock went down one thousand feet or more.

"As he looked, he saw Gus move his hand and by this he knew he was still alive.

"Now, no man in the country knows Whiteside mountain better than Charlie Wright, and no man knew better the risk and peril of attempting to reach the place where Gus Baty was hanging by the little bush.

"Take all three women away—we must have silence—take them clear out of hearing. Thus Charlie Wright gave orders. Then returning to Mr. Dillard, he said, 'Can you go with me?' Mr. Dillard said, 'I'll try.'

"Remembering that there was a ledge leading to the place where the young man had lodged, Wright led the way and Dillard followed.

Clings To Crevices

"Mr. Wright believed that if he could only reach the ledge, he would be able to pull up the others and

bring them over the forty feet of Baty. "After going some distance, the rock became so steep that Dillard said, 'I can't cross that, Charlie,' and turned back. Charlie Wright went on clinging to the rock until he reached some bushes growing in the crevice. Charlie Wright clung to the rock, gripping his fingers in the crevices worn there by the storms of ages.

"At last he reached the line along which Baty had fallen and, looking down, saw his man some twenty feet below, wedged against the small brush on the very edge of the precipice; side his left foot crossed under his Baty was lying partly on his left knee, his right foot hanging over the cliff. The very last brush on the edge had stopped him. Had he missed this brush or gone one foot on either side of it, he would have fallen fully one thousand feet.

"Be still, Gus, I'm coming to you. Don't move. It's Charlie Wright." "Climbing down some twenty feet more, and brave Charlie Wright had his hand on Gus Baty. "He was still alive and conscious but badly hurt by the fall. One knee was terribly bruised, and a large stick had pierced his head, just back of the ear.

"Wright pulled out the stick and spoke a few words to the wounded man.

"Now, think of these two men, one of them almost entirely disabled 150 or 160 feet of sloping rock between them, and nearly two thousand feet to the valley below, clinging to the bushes and rocks, and no human help. It makes one feel dizzy!

"The other day I stood on the eastern slope and looked at the place and the whole thing took on the coloring and shape of the miraculous.

"But the crisis was not yet over. How could Charlie Wright, brave and strong as he was, climb out of this perilous position with a man almost entirely unable to help himself? To get out himself would seem almost impossible. But to climb that rock with a man half dead, would be a little less than a miracle. But Wright is both strong and brave.

"He spoke in a commanding tone: 'Now, Gus, you must not think of your pain; you must help yourself all you can. Be cool and do as I tell you.'

"Taking him firmly by the collar of his coat and vest, Wright pulled him out, and scrambled up a few feet to where he could get a temporary resting place.

"Then Mr. Wright got below him and, putting his shoulder under him, pushed him little by little, some thirty feet up the rock.

"Now, they have reached the most perilous spot—the steep rock must be crossed. Mr. Baty was in great pain. What was done had to be done quickly. His strength would not brook long delay.

"At this point, Mr. Wright called to Mr. Dillard to come to his help. "If you can't come, send for my brother. I must have help."

"But he knew that delay would no doubt mean death—perhaps the death

North Skeenah News

Mr. Willie Green passed through this section Monday on his way to his work on South Skeenah.

Mr. E. L. DeHart has moved his saw mill from this section to Otto. Messrs. J. W. Hastings and E. B. DeHart were in this community Tuesday.

Mrs. Lexie Sanders made business trip to Franklin Monday.

Mr. Quince Shope from Virginia has been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zeli Shope this week end.

Mrs. Robert Carpenter had a birthday quilting Tuesday. Those present seemed to enjoy themselves very much. Mr. Reamus Sanders has a ten by twenty smile, its a girl.

Mr. Frank Shope went to Nantahala Wednesday, in spite of rain, to feed hogs.

Mrs. Annie Crawford and her brother, Fred Childers, were in this section on business Saturday.

Mr. Vester Stockton from Tryphosa, spent Monday night with home folks.

New Movie

S. H. Lyle, Jr., and Steve Porter, owners of the local moving picture house, have leased a building in Clayton, Ga., next door to Dover's Drug store and will install modern motion picture equipment. It is understood that Clayton has been without a movie for some time. The building leased by the local citizens will be enlarged and repaired.

of them both. "Seeing the peril of the situation

"And come he did, clean to the steep rock.

"We held Baty on his feet, one on each side, dragging and pushing him little by little—moving his feet along with our feet, and along on, I don't know how, till we reached the ledge where the rock was not so steep.

"Here we rested until the lines and halters from the buggies were brought. Then they tied them around Mr. Baty and pulled him to the top.

"This is as they told it to me. "As soon as they reached the top Mr. Baty fainted and it took half an hour to bring him to consciousness; then they made a litter of poles and lap robes and carried him to the buggy, more than a mile down the mountain. They drove to Highlands and in two months Mr. Baty was sound and well.

"Mr. Baty, what did you think as you slipped from the rock?" I asked. "I scarcely thought anything. It was all so quick. But I knew that I was gone. It surprises me, even now to think I am alive. I shall never cease to be grateful to the good Lord, and these two men.

"These men live at Highlands, Macon county, and no report of this incident has been given to the paper.

One of Most Daring Rescues in State "The above is a report of the most daring rescue ever made in the old north state, and is but a feeble portrayal of the facts. A man must see the mountain to be fully impressed with the degree of a hero's nerve necessary to do such a deed.

"Men who know the mountain declare to me that this feat of daring has perhaps never been equalled in the history of North Carolina.

"A gentleman who knew all the facts said to me: 'Charlie Wright is the only man in this country, in my judgment, who has the nerve and the courage even to have attempted to rescue Gus Baty from the edge of that cliff.' And after seeing the place I am of the same opinion.

"If any man ever deserved the hero medal, Charlie Wright is that man. And next to him is W. M. Dillard.

"These men told me that no sum of money could tempt them to undertake it again.

"I would not do it for all the money in the world," said Charlie Wright. "But I guess I would try it if some one was hanging there and I thought I could save his life." Now that is the language of true courage.

"Mr. Baty is a man some twenty-five years of age. Mr. Dillard is thirty and Mr. Wright about thirty-five. Mr. Wright is the son of Barrak Wright, of Sheriff, who lives some six miles from Whiteside mountain and who first told me of the rescue of Gus Baty and took me to see both the mountain and the men. So I write from personal knowledge.

"If Mr. Carnegie ever gave a medal to men who deserved it, let him give medals to Charlie Wright and W. M. Dillard. And if he wishes to see the place from which Gus Baty was rescued, let him prepare to behold one of the sublimest scenes in the famed 'Land of the Sky'!"—Asheville Times.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONER MAKES APPEAL

C. N. Mease, Deputy Game Warden, States Aims of Department in Restocking Streams and Forests.

(By C. N. Mease)

The time has come when the State of North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development is going to provide for the care of game and fur-bearing animals and migratory birds, the time has come when the state has seen the wisdom of establishing game preserves or refuges.

But if we are going to wait for any central body to reach out from its headquarters and fill our home covers with game, and the streams back of our homes with fish, we've got a long, long wait ahead of us.

The game restoration program starts with the home covers and protection. It is based on the policy that each of us must assume the responsibility for the care, development, and restocking of some favorite animal or bird which we like to hunt. This applies to fishing as well.

"The game restoration program is laid down in broad lines, each of us should supply our local covers with the kind of game which we wish to increase to some extent, where it is possible to do so.

Most any kind of game will do well in Western North Carolina, at the present time I think we should give our attention to game as we never have before. Quail can be propagated

method are well known, if we wish to increase pheasants, they can be raised easily in this section of the state, as we readily know, most any kind of small game can be propagated in most any section of Western North Carolina by giving it the proper protection and attention. In fact there is no kind of game now in Western North Carolina that can not be increased if we people will assume the responsibility of the work and intelligently follow the simple plan of a game program.

There is nothing new in the breeding, protecting and keeping of game as many sportsmen and sportsmen's clubs have been doing this work for years, and they are on the right track, but they need the active support and assistance of every one who is interested in game propagation.

The only thing new in the propagating of game in Western North Carolina is that each of us must do our share of the work of breeding and increasing game in our respective locality, and as soon as we people wake up to the possibilities of the policy, they will be more game and better shooting every where.

It is well to realize that charity begins at home, and it is essential that in all sections or districts of Western North Carolina, where the forests or covers are available, for us to organize among ourselves, a club of some form and purchase some few pairs of animals or birds which we like to hunt and assist the state in stocking its fields and forests with game and fish of various kinds and now as the state is taking this great step in trying to protect and increase the game throughout the state for the benefit and sport of its people, it is also essential that every citizen should constitute a game warden and assist the wardens in protecting the game and fish and co-operate in the work from every angle.

We wardens realize that of our own efforts alone we will be able to accomplish but little in propagating and protecting our fish and game, but if each of us will wake up to the fact that we are interested and that we assume the responsibilities of protecting our own localities of local streams and hunting covers, we will then be able to accomplish our undertakings complete.

The game restoration program assumes that every sportsman is willing to work for the improvement of his country as well as the improvement of his own sport if he is shown the way, if this was not the case, the end of sport would be close at hand, the propagating of game starts at home in the home covers, it gives every man in the ranks a definite job in the in-breeding and protecting fish and game in his respective locality or covers in which he is personally interested.

The leaders of the Department of Conservation and Development may plan campaigns and the officers may give commands or appeals and lead the way, but without the co-operation and assistance of the people who loves to hunt and fish and loves the outdoor life, the best laid plans must fail, the game program supported by

CUP GIVEN BY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Men's Class of Local Methodist Church Will Offer Cup for Best Attendance and Increase Membership.

With a view to giving impetus to Sunday School work among the men of Western North Carolina the Men's Bible Class of the Franklin Methodist church has offered a cup to be competed for among similar classes of Andrews, Murphy, Hayesville, Bryson City, Sylva and Franklin. This contest will begin the 15th day of April and will continue for six months. At the end of the first six months the class having the greatest percentage in increased membership and also the greatest percentage of attendance, will win the cup. The second contest of six months will begin immediately after the close of the first. If the same class wins the cup for the second time in succession the cup will become its permanent property, in which case all losing classes will provide a second cup to be competed for in a similar manner.

In the work for possession of the cup increased membership and percentage attendance will count 50 per cent each.

With a view to getting this contest under way at once the Franklin class has appointed delegations to visit the towns mentioned next Sunday and present the proposition. J. C. Ledbetter will go to Sylva, R. C. Gabrels to Bryson City, Gordon Moore to Andrews, Mark Dowdle to Murphy

and

Strawberry Plants \$2.00 Per 1,000

Mr. H. N. Moore announces that he can supply good strawberry plants, certified by government officials, at \$2.00 per thousand. Mr. Moore requests that those wanting such plants bring their orders to town next Monday and see him at the county agent's office. It is imperative, states Mr. Moore, to get orders listed at once so that the plants will reach here in time for resetting in the early spring.

P. T. A. Meeting

There will be a meeting of the P. T. A. at the school auditorium Friday at 3:30 p. m. Please be interested enough in your school and children to attend.

strong citizens and sportsmen's clubs will be the most important influence in building up the game restoration program.

When we begin to see the increase of game in our home covers and fish in the local streams from the interest in which we are taking among ourselves many of the most perplexing problems of the present day, particularly relating to law enforcements, will be automatically solved. When we people have a close personal interest in the game and fish supply, and begin to feel that we are primarily responsible for it, then we will get results that we have never seen before.

I must say that the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development is doing everything possible as funds become available, in restocking and propagating game and fish in the state and are getting successful results. The leaders of the department have in the last few months established three state game sanctuaries or refuges and is now stocking the preserves with game of various kinds for the benefit of its people. And in order to bring back the game throughout the state, the department also has a number of fish hatcheries raising fish to stock our streams.

To bring back the game and fish to the present generation means so much in so many ways, and it seems to me that we people in the hills of Western North Carolina have the advantage, if we will take it. We have the covers, hiding and breeding places for game and the fresh water streams for the fish.

While we have the co-operation of the National forest service and their forests of help us we should take advantage of it.

Western North Carolina is an ideal place throughout the mountain section for a fish and game refuge or sanctuaries and there is no reason why we should not have fish and game of various kinds and in most any number, if we will do our part in re-stocking and protecting our own home covers and local streams and observe the state game and fish laws—C. N. MEASE, Deputy Fish and Game Commissioner.