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Glider Pilot Rescued After 24 Hour Ordeal

A Hayesville glider pilot described as a "cocky and daring" pilot was rescued by a team of Andrews Civil Air Patrol and U. S. Army helicopter pilots Sunday afternoon after spending almost 24 hours on a rugged, isolated Cherokee County mountain side near Andrews. William Fuller, 31, of Wonder View Ranch at Hayesville was hoisted aboard a hovering Army helicopter around 2 p.m. Sunday after spending the night near the head of Gipp Creek on Joama Bald after his KA6 glider had crashed into the mountainside shortly after 2 p.m., Saturday.

Fuller was hospitalized in Andrews. He was suffering from severe sprains of both ankles, bruises and lacerated hands and elbows. His condition was described as "very good" and it was reported that he is eager to be flying again.

Fuller has the Civil Air Patrol, the U. S. Army helicopter pilots, and Andrews resident Sam Stewart to thank for his early rescue. Mr. Stewart observed the crash from the front porch of his home in Andrews. According to Mr. Stewart, he immediately reported to Civil Air Patrol officers and Andrews-Murphy airport officials that he and his wife, along with several friends, saw the glider go down behind a ridge line located five miles northeast of his home. He said he saw the glider go behind the ridge line several times, as if attempting to get up and over the mountain, but on the last attempt the glider seemed to wing over and go into the mountain.

Although this story was related to CAP officers and airport officials no concern was felt for Fuller's safety until just before dark when Richard Parker flew over the area described by Stewart. (Fuller later said he heard the plane fly over but dusk obscured the glider wreckage.) According to the CAP officers and airport officials, Fuller, an experienced glider pilot had planned to soar for a time and return to the airport. However, on some occasions, Fuller had piloted his glider to such far off cities as Charlotte and had called in after dark to report to airport officials of his whereabouts. It was not uncommon for Fuller to be gone for long periods and on some occasions until dusk.

On this particular afternoon, Fuller said before take-off that if he could catch a good wind he would soar over the mountains and land at Knoxville. He had been soaring in the area earlier in the day and had returned to the airport sometime around lunch.

On the ill-fated flight, pilot Matthew Conners with Fuller and his glider in tow, left Andrews Airport at 2 p.m. Saturday. At about 2:15 p.m. the glider was released and Conners returned to the field. Shortly before sunset Saturday, concern for Fuller's safety prompted Parker to fly over the area where the glider had been released. During the afternoon, CAP Group headquarters was notified of the possible crash and search procedures were put into motion. When Parker returned and reported that he did not see the glider in the air or on the ground final search plans were formulated.

"I think we did the best thing in waiting to ascertain if there was a plane down," Howard A. Kilpatrick, Captain, CAP-USAF, Commander, said.

A CAP search and rescue mission endangers lives each second. This is especially true when flying over rugged terrain in turbulent air. Knowing the reaction of a glider in this area, we had no way of knowing if there was an aircraft down or not," Kilpatrick added.

All we could do was wait until Fuller called in if he set his craft down in some other area or if he failed to call in or return to his base, then we could be fairly sure he was down in some area. I wish to make very clear that Lt. Edgar Wood and Richard Parker did not discourage a search for the craft on Sunday afternoon. I could have ordered a routine check flight over the area where Fuller was set loose to ascertain if his ship was still airborne in that area or not.

report that a craft was missing, then I feel that I should be held responsible and no one else. As soon as we realized that Mr. Fuller was probably down, an air search was begun."

"Richard Parker and Edgar Wood searched Saturday night for the ship. This search was continued on Sunday concentrating on the area where the glider was cut loose. I feel that we did our job and did it well, and if anyone is to be held responsible for not starting a search earlier, then I wish to assume that responsibility. I was informed that the report of a missing glider was in error, therefore I assumed the plane was either at the airport or in the air. I then felt there was no need for a routine check flight. Immediately, I discontinued any effort to start a CAP-USAF search."

Early Sunday, the CAP and an Army group from Ft. Benning, Ga., on maneuvers at nearby Blairsville, Ga., joined the Air Force Auxiliary at Andrews, where the search was organized.

CAP planes and helicopters attached to the Army unit began their search and at 12:20 p.m., CAP pilot Edgar Wood of Andrews spotted the glider wreckage in the wooded terrain 10 miles northeast of Andrews.

The four 'copters flew over the scene and returned to the base asking for a volunteer with experience in mountain flying.

Lt. Col. Earl T. Freeman of Asheville, Group Commander and a veteran light plane pilot, went aboard one of the helicopters. Once over the wreckage, he was placed in a harness and lowered the 75 feet to the glider.

He called to Fuller and found him at a small stream, where the glider pilot had crawled to get water. Seeing he could not get the injured man back up the slope without assistance, Freeman returned to the wick-lowered harness and went back aboard.

The craft returned to Andrews, picked up Specialist First Class Thomas Calvert of Ft. Benning and went back to the mountain, this time lowering both men, they both half-carried Fuller up the precipitous slope after strapping him in the harness and he was lifted into the hovering 'copter.

Fuller told his rescuers his glider had run out of lift, that is, the thermal currents that permit it to soar had suddenly dissipated. His craft went almost straight into the mountain, then nosed over. It was damaged extensively but remained intact.

Fuller afraid his legs were broken crawled from the ship and spent the night near by, wrapped in his parachute. Sunday morning, he made a cross with his 'chute as a signal and had crawled to the stream when the helicopter arrived. He had no food in the glider and said he had been experimentally nibbling at foliage with the thought that he might "be there a week," he told rescuers.

The search and rescue operation was filled with drama.

The critical point came when it was determined that the helicopter could not land near the wreckage. It was then that Capt. Royce M. Smithson of Ft. Benning hovered his 'copter and Freeman was put in the harness and swung down to the ground.

Sellers paid high tribute to all the personnel in the operation with particular words of praise for Freeman, Smithson, Calver, J. W. Gant, Cherokee County wildlife protector and the Cherokee County rescue squad, a co-county rescue squad. Through Gant and the rescue squad a coordinated radio communications network was set up, greatly aiding the operation. Sellers lauded also the performance of the Civil Air Patrol members who had come from points all over the western part of the state to give assistance.

Fuller's wife was at the search headquarters all day and was in the ambulance when her husband was landed.

WEATHER

July	H	L	Perc.
12	86	67	0.16
13	86	64	0.03
14	92	60	0.00
15	92	63	0.00
16	92	69	0.02
17	90	60	0.00
18	91	63	0.00

Forecast Thursday and Friday partly cloudy and scattered p.m. Thundershowers. Saturday and Sunday showers and thundershowers ending Sunday morning.

Wagon Train Rodeo Draws Big Crowd

Tellico Plains - Over 10,000 people witnessed Tellico's first annual professional Rodeo. Ten states were represented among the list of contestants. With the top money winner J. B. Gibson of Houston, Texas taking home \$504.00 in his jeans. Saturday night's attendance was so great many people were unable to see the Rodeo.

Plans are now being made for next years Rodeo to be held further back near the hillside where a crowd of 5,000 or more could be easily accommodated. Also four lanes of traffic into the parking area will be open to accommodate 3,000 cars.

Over 100 wagons and 500 horseback riders left Sunday morning following Saturday night's rodeo performance for their annual trek over the mountains into North Carolina. This years wagon train was considered the best one yet.

At meeting on return of the Wagon Train, rodeo and wagon train officials agreed on going all out next year to make every possible effort for the convenience of spectators and fans who make a celebration of this kind possible.

The people of Tellico Plains say, "See you all next year."

Sammy Cox, Jr. Is Drowned In Lake Chatuge

Hayesville -- Sammy Cox, Jr., 17, of Clay County was drowned about 3 p.m. Thursday, July 12 in Lake Chatuge near Hayesville. He was pulled from the water immediately by three companions but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Larry Smith, 16, told Sheriff Neal Kitchens that he, Roy Palmer, 14 and Tommy Shook, 16 were playing in shallow water at a wildlife access area four miles east of Hayesville. Cox was floating on an inner tube several yards away in deeper water.

Smith said he heard Cox thrashing in the water and swam to his aid when he saw the inner tube floating away. Palmer went after the inner tube.

A witness, Mrs. Marvin Miller of Murphy, said Smith and Cox struggled in the water for a few moments before Palmer arrived with the inner tube. Shook helped bring Cox in and Smith gave mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration. Coroner Dr. L. K. Staton

ruled the youth died of accidental drowning.

The sheriff said the boy's companions told him they did not know whether Cox could swim or not.

Cox was a member of Truitt Memorial Baptist Church and was a rising junior at Hayesville High School. He had been working in Atlanta on a summer job.

Surviving are the father, Sam Cox, Sr. of Hayesville, the mother, Mrs. Dorothy Ledford Cox of Hayesville; two sisters, Harriett and Eve of Hayesville; and the paternal grandmother, Mrs. Ollie Cox of Hayesville.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Truitt Memorial Baptist Church.

The Rev. Billy Fox officiated and burial was in the church cemetery.

Palbearers were Harry Massey, Frank Bumgarner, Jerry and Billy Ray Ledford, Douglas Johnson and Jimmy Tipton.

Ivie Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Fallen Glider Is Shown in Circle Above As It Looked To Search Pilots. (Scout Photo)

Murphy Town Board Sets Water Rates

The Murphy Town Board, meeting on Monday, July 9, set the tax rate for 1962-63 at \$1.67 per \$100.00 valuation. This rate is the same as it was for 1961-62.

In other business, the water rates for users of the Town of Murphy water system were set as outlined in an advertisement in this paper. The minimum residential water rate was set at \$3.00 inside the town limits, and \$3.50 outside the town limit. The minimum commercial rate inside the town limits is \$3.50, outside commercial minimum rates are \$4.50.

Former Assistant District Ranger Is Promoted

Donald W. Peterson, former assistant District Ranger here in Murphy was recently promoted to District Ranger of the Highland District of the North Carolina National Forests after working here for a period of about four years.

Gerald E. Jacques former Forester was also promoted and transferred into the Division of Timber Management on the Chickasaw District of the Mississippi National Forests, after working here almost four years.

D. Helton Carmichael, graduate of the Mississippi State University with a B. S. degree in Forestry has taken the position of Assistant District Ranger here in the U. S. Forest Service Tusquegee Ranger District Office. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Carmichael had served four years on the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas. He and his wife Tommie are natives of Miss. and have made their home at Hiwassee Street with their two children.

Harshaw Farm Comes To Life

The Harshaw Farm, long a landmark in these parts, has come to life.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. (Edgar) Harshaw have returned to the Harshaw Farm. He has just retired from the public school system in Richmond, Va. Mrs. Harshaw was also connected with the Richmond School System. She is a native Virginian. The couple plan to make their home at the historic Harshaw Farm located on the banks of the Hiwassee River south of Murphy.



Andrews -- The Andrews Little League will field an All Star team for the only tournament game scheduled in Andrews for Thursday, July 19 at 5 p.m. Cherokee will be the visiting team. The winners will meet the winners of the Sylva - Franklin game on Friday, July 20 at Sylva.

Explorer Troop Responsible For Youth Recreation Center

From eight in the morning until noon each day the rock gym is filled with boys and girls playing badminton, ping-pong, basketball, and tennis, or building for physical fitness with bell bars, along with the strains of current twist records from the juke box in the corner.

Chiefly responsible for this Recreation Center is Explorer Post 416, composed of 30 Murphy boys between the ages of 14 and 18.

Two years ago the Fair Association turned over the gym to the Explorers and their Post Advisers, Patrolman R. H. Enslay and Felix Palmer. The boys set about helping to clean and repair the old building. They scraped the floors and lined off sections for games and appealed to the summer recreation committee for help in re-roofing the building, replacing broken window panes and for game equipment. This summer the Committee has provided an adult, Jimmy McCombs, to supervise activities every day during summer vacation. The Center has proved to be so popular that as many as 45 youngsters a day have participated in the games there. Over \$1,500 has been spent on the project and the Explorers are now in the process of adding shuffleboard to the list of activities.

and basis for the organization is citizenship training, character building, and physical fitness. They meet once a week in the gym and besides regular activities they go on overnight camping trips and participate in planned socials. Last year they went to Dobbins Air Force Base for a tour and a plane ride. Always conscious of the community's needs, last winter they presented the

elementary school with a substantial check for shoes for needy children.

The Troop recently elected new officers for the coming year. They are Tommy Palmer, president; Don Carner, Jr., vice president; Robert D. Bruce, Jr., secretary; Jimmy Jordan, treasurer; Mike Hinton, quartermaster; and Steve and Billy Howell, Post representatives.

SORRY, BOYS... BUT I'VE GOT TO GO BACK... I FORGOT TO GIVE BLOOD BEFORE I LEFT!

Bloodmobile Visit Hayesville, N. C. Methodist Church
Thursday, July 19th
12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Murphy Calendar

Sunday, July 22

- 6:15 a.m. Mass at Providence Chapel.
- 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Williams Catholic Church.
- 5:30 p.m. MYF at First Methodist Church.
- 8:00 p.m. Union Services of Presbyterian and Methodist at Presbyterian Church.
- Monday, July 23
- 6:30 p.m. Rotary Club to Meet at Family Restaurant
- 6:30 p.m. Annual Pot Luck picnic of Wesleyan Service Guild to be held in Recreation Hall of First Methodist Church. All members and husbands are invited. Hostesses are Addie Leatherwood, Ruth Carringer and Martha Lee.
- 7:45 p.m. Women of the Church to meet in the Westminister building of the Presbyterian Church.

Tuesday, July 24,

- 6:30 p.m. Lions Club to meet in recreation hall of First Methodist Church.
- Wednesday, July 25
- 7:20 p.m. Midweek Services at Presbyterian Church.
- 7:30 p.m. Midweek Services at Free Methodist Church.
- 7:30 p.m. Midweek services at First Methodist Church.
- 8:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal at Presbyterian Church.
- 8:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal at First Methodist Church.
- Thursday, July 26
- 3:30 p.m. Murphy Garden Club to meet with Miss Lela Hayes