

FELL TO HIS DEATH

Willie McKissack Drowned in Grand River---Body Not Yet Recovered.

Six year old Willie McKissick was drowned in the branch of the Grand river Saturday morning. He left home about eleven o'clock, in company with two other little boys, and no clue as to what had befallen him was found until eight o'clock Sunday morning. The search which his father started at seven in the evening was kept up through all the hours of the night, without bringing to light any definite information on which his frenzied parents could work. Once it was stated that he had been seen boarding the morning train for Rifle, but the hopes raised by this suggestion were cruelly dashed when the train load of excursionists returned without him, and the message came that all efforts to locate him in Rifle had been unavailing.

Roscoe Sheldon, who had been seen playing with him shortly before the child disappeared, was taken by the officers and questioned. The Sheldon boy stoutly persisted that he had left Willie at the shooting match and did not know what had become of him. Sunday morning Desmond Moore, who was also with the child at the time of the accident, was asked by Officer Malaby: "Where did Willie fall?" The child, taken off his guard, replied, "From the little bridge to the island."

Mr. Malaby then went to the Sheldon lad, and telling that Desmond had told of the affair, bade him give account of the accident as he had seen it.

The children's stories were substantially the same. They had been over to the shooting grounds, and as they were re-crossing the river on the low bridge, little Willie and Roscoe somewhat ahead of Desmond, the little McKissack had tripped and fell off the bridge into the river.

The children ran to the bank, and began to take off their shoes to wade in after him. Had they done this, the tragedy would undoubtedly have been tripled, for the current is very swift and strong, and no child's strength could withstand the rush of the waters. Before they had gotten their shoes off, however, they saw that little Willie had been carried beyond their reach. Desmond started to run for help, when the other lad suggested that no one could ever know what had happened and they would both get into trouble if they told, and the children agreed to go home as if nothing had happened.

Both boys must have been terribly frightened for their persistence in refusing to tell that they knew anything of little Willie's whereabouts, was remarkable.

As soon as the drowning of the child became known, the men of the town made efforts to secure the body. The river was dynamited three times on Sunday afternoon with no results and it is scarcely thought that any trace will ever be found of the little lad.

A reward of fifty dollars is offered for the recovery of the body.

Police Blotter

Glenwood Post: July 11, 1903

Just above the D. & R. G. Railway bridge, from which little Willie McKissack fell last Saturday morning, is a dam of rock and gravel. That it is proving effectual in keeping the swift current of the Grand out of the little branch that flows around the island, the water black piers of the bridge testify. There has been a fall of at least four feet since the party of men, women and children, who are busily working on the river bank, started at their task.

When Willie fell from the treacherous foot-bridge, the water in this channel was deep enough and the current strong enough to make it a dangerous spot for a much older and stronger person than he. The opinion is held by many that the child's body was borne down at once to the juncture of the rivers, and this was the statement made by the boys who were with him when he fell in, and if this view is correct there can scarcely be any chance for its recovery.

On the other hand, friends of the child's parents feel that there is a probability that the little body was caught before it could be floated out to the riffles. It is in the hope that the body has not yet been carried beyond the riffles into the swift flowing Grand and may be recovered that they are working to lower the water near the spot where Willie fell.