

Ralph Hayes & Charles Searby barely escape from drowning

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Contributed by Eric Alli

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[Two columns clipped, placed over what appears to be a book page about Francis Browne Stockbridge.]

NO. 10

1911

BARELY ESCAPE FROM DROWNING

Ralph Hayes and Companion
Rescued After Fighting
Waves for an Hour

Sailboat Overturned and Sank
Hung to Soap Box

BOTH BOYS PLUCKY

After clinging to a soap box for three quarters of an hour in the waters of Lake Huron last Friday afternoon Ralph Hayes and Charles Searby of Adelaide, Australia, were rescued by Earl Hayes and Clark Pomeroy in the gasoline launch *The Nut*.

The four boys were returning from a week's camping trip along the lake shore when the accident occurred. When they rounded Pt. AuGres last Friday a strong wind was blowing. Ralph Hayes and Charles Searby, who has been spending his vaca-

Francis Browne Stockbridge. 17

tion with him, were in the sailboat, *The Riley*, an 18 foot cut boat. Earl Hayes and Clark Pomeroy were in the launch. On account of the strong wind the sailboat had to keep well out in the lake, while those in the launch crept along comparatively close to shore. The boys in the launch could easily see the sailboat until the rain hit them. Then for three quarters of an hour the rain came in such torrents that they could see only a short distance from them. After the storm cleared away they looked in vain for the sailboat. Not a sign could they see. Fearing something had befallen their companions they turned the launch and headed out into the lake. After some search they discover the two boys clinging to a soap box between them shouting lustily trying to attract attention. The sailboat had capsized and sunk. A heavy sea was still running and it was no small task to pick up the swimmers. But Earl Hayes is no small man and when he grabbed a hold of them they had to come. The boys were completely exhausted and numb from their long exposure to the water and their efforts to keep afloat. Both aver that it was the other one's pluck and nerve that kept him from giving up. "Guess that must have been an Ivory soap box the way it floated," Ralph Hayes says.

Stockbridge was a charming host, more pleasure in the bestowing than even the guest did in the receiving.

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