

Granddaddy saved the Little Boy

It was in the late 1940s, Granddaddy Gilley was fishing on the Creek (Mill Pond) as he often did. Back in them days very few people had gas powered motor boats, most folks moved their boat around with paddles. My family members were very good at it. Granddaddy, Daddy and all my uncles could fish with the right arm and row the boat with the left arm and move the boat around just about any way they wanted. It looked so simple but it took special practice to perfect it.

Granddaddy noticed a man and little boy about eight years old piddling around on the pond trying to fish and move the boat about. It was obvious they were city boys and did not have that special knack for fishing and rowing. They were talking loud, floundering around, bumping the boat and just doing everything you should not do, that is, if you want to catch any fish.

In a while Granddaddy heard a big commotion and the man started screaming for help. Granddaddy looked to see the little boy was not in the boat but frantically splashing around in the water. It was obvious the little boy could not swim and the man did not know what to do to help him. In a few minutes the boy was not splashing around anymore but under the water. Granddaddy rowed over to where they were to see if he could help. The man was absolutely beside himself, screaming for help. Actually instead of helping the man was making things worse. When he neared their boat Granddaddy could see the little boy under the water. But Granddaddy was too old to jump in and dive down for the boy. He took his fishing pole and stuck the butt end down to the boy, twisted the pole in the boys loose shirt until he got it to grip and then he pulled him up out of the water. He pulled the boy out of the pond onto his boat and laid him across the live well face down. Then Granddaddy started to do presses on the boys back to pump the water out of his lungs. It worked and finally the boy started sputtering and coughing, and spitting out water. The man and little boy later came to see Granddaddy to thank him.

My Granddaddy saved that little boys life!