

Bear Hunt at Grand Rapids. Escaped Animal is Killed to Save a Man's Life (News Article)

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BEAR HUNT AT GRAND RAPIDS.

Escaped Animal Is Killed to Save a Man's Life.

Jack, the favorite member of the John Ball park bear family, is dead at Grand Rapids, Mich. It was either his life or that of Chris Wilmerink, one of the park men, and the choice was quickly and effectively made. Jack had escaped from the park and was killed while an attempt was being made to induce him to return to his quarters. Bruin was discovered by the big party organized to hunt for him about half a mile from the park. Efforts were made to coax Jack back to the park, and he was finally started in the right direction, the crowd following at a respectful distance.

But Jack apparently had no intention of returning to imprisonment. He had gone only a short distance when he suddenly turned and made back directly for his pursuers. Wilmerink was closest to him and the others of the party were spread out to cover his retreat. Jack started toward the park men on all fours on a run. Wilmerink waved his gun and arms wildly as he retreated backward, yelling: "Go back, Jack. Go back, Jack." But Jack had his mind made up and had no intention of going back. When the bear was within a few feet of him Wilmerink struck his foot against a stubble and fell flat on his back.

Greenley, Woodworth and Watson covered the brute with their Winchesters ready to shoot. On came Jack with a rush for the prostrate man. As he approached Wilmerink struck the bear a smart blow on the snout with his gun. It stopped him for a moment,

but it only tended to increase his ugliness. Before Wilmerink was able to regain his feet Jack made another rush for him. It was his last. Three sharp reports rang out and as many bullets pierced the bear's body. Two balls entered the fore shoulder and the third found lodgment in the neck. Jack tumbled over dead.