

If you spend a lot of time outdoors, you can find yourself in an emergency at any time. Which of these outdoor activities are you involved in—fishing, hiking, boating, berry-picking, hunting, camping, wildlife watching, and playing?

It is important to think “it can happen to me.” You should prepare for an emergency before leaving home or you may not have the right equipment or skills to face an emergency situation.

Someone who is lost, or tossed into an emergency, may panic. Fear, cold, and being tired, hungry, or thirsty are all normal feelings in an emergency situation. You must learn to overcome these feelings. Develop the attitude that you will survive.

Don't go out adventuring in the woods or on the water if you are not in good health. If you find yourself in an emergency, your poor health may work against you.

### **How to increase your chances of surviving an emergency:**

- Think positive
- WANT to survive
- Be in good health
- Learn survival skills
- Take along survival equipment

### **How to get ready for a trip:**

1. Check the weather forecast. Ask elders and other experienced adults what they think the weather will be like.
2. Know the following:
  - Where you are going
  - The route you are taking
  - How long it will take to get there
  - How and when you will be coming back
3. Tell at least one adult your plans and let them know at what time they should call for help.
4. Never travel alone, especially if you don't know the area well. It is best to travel in groups of three or four. If someone has an accident, the second person can go for help and the third person can stay with the injured one.
5. Take the right clothes and gear. Take long underwear, rain pants, rain jacket, extra mittens, socks, a hat, and a survival kit. Dress in layers. Wool and polypropylene are the best insulative materials. Cotton is a poor insulating material, even though cotton jeans are what most people wear. Insulation traps the body's heat next to the body.



✓ **It is very important to prepare for an emergency BEFORE leaving home.**

*Read the following stories about Jeffrey Young. Think about what Jeffrey had going for him. What should he have done to make it easier for his rescuers to find him?*

# The Daily Sentinel

Sitka, Alaska

Monday August 24, 1987

## Lost Boy Rescued After 5 Days

Searcher Finds 9-Year-Old In Good Shape On Gavan Hill

By **Allen Sykora**

*Sentinel Staff Writer*

"Hey, my name is Jeff." The child's voice from a wooded ravine led Dave Caldwell to nine-year-old Jeffrey Young Sunday morning. The boy was rescued safe and sound after five nights in the woods without shelter and only berries to eat.

Since Wednesday morning, the boy had been the subject of one of the most intensive missing person searches in Sitka history.

Rescuers and a doctor at Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital all described the boy as in remarkably good condition for his ordeal. He was found by a member of a volunteer search team high on Gavan Hill at about 11 a.m. Sunday.

Because of the rugged terrain, it took a couple of hours for rescuers to administer first aid and carry him to the nearest road, where an ambulance was waiting to take him to Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital.

"He's doing remarkably well," said Dr. Thomas Krahn, who said the boy suffered only some swelling of the feet and some bruises.

"He's one of the healthiest people I've seen today," said the Mt. Edgecumbe hospital staff physician. After the examination, Jeffrey was taken to a room to rest and recover.

The news of the rescue came as a team of bloodhounds and their handlers, expenses covered by volun-

teers, were being flown to Sitka for another attempt to solve the mystery of the disappearance of the boy, on a hillside in direct view of most Sitka residents. Jeffrey had last been seen Tuesday morning by his brother Tom, from whom he had become separated as Tom was hunting deer on the hill.

Joyous family members and friends lined the hospital hallway outside the emergency room Sunday afternoon while the boy was being examined upon arrival by ambulance. He raised his head and flashed them a big smile as he was wheeled out to a hospital room.

Dave Caldwell, who found the boy, was in a team with Rod Lowe and Kevin Kambak. They borrowed a two-way radio from the fire hall and headed up Gavan Hill early Sunday morning, following a trail that begins behind the city landfill.

They made their way to some cliffs, which seemed a likely spot for a closer look. Caldwell walked above the cliffs, while the other two men were below.

They were calling out to each other to keep track of the whereabouts of their own team members in the nearby brush, Caldwell said. At one time he was out of earshot of the others, so when they got back within hearing distance they shouted that they would continue their respective courses until they could meet back on the trail.

"I went along for a while and lost vocal contact again," said Caldwell, "so instead of calling Rod's name, I called Jeff's name."

Caldwell said he had not been calling the boy's name all day, but the third time he called out the boy's name, a child's voice answered.

"He said, 'Hey, my name is Jeff,'" said Caldwell.

Caldwell said he was stunned to hear the young voice from nearby, and scarcely believed his ears. But he quickly followed the voice to a gully, where he spotted the boy.

Jeffrey was standing, but said he had a hurt leg. His clothes were wet from the waist down.

"He sure was glad to see somebody," said Caldwell. Caldwell happened to be the carrier of the two-way radio carried by his party. He called in the news that the town had been praying for: Jeffrey Young had been found alive and well.

Caldwell fired two shots to summon his companions, but they were unable to find him until helicopter pilot Arnie Johnson directed them to the spot.

Don Kluting, a member of the fire department's search and rescue team, was with a group beating through brush behind the Public Safety Academy, when he heard Caldwell's broadcast. The message had not been picked up at the fire hall, so Kluting relayed the news.

## Lost boy

*Continued from page 2*

"Then we ran up the hill," he said.

"The kid was in really high spirits," said Kluting. "He was happy, he was able to get up and walk." Nevertheless, the rescuers brought Jeffrey down the mountain on a stretcher that had been lowered by the helicopter.

Johnson was unable to find any clearing in the vicinity big enough to land the helicopter, which would have been necessary to get him aboard.

The professional search and rescue personnel who first reached Jeffrey sent a radio message to the fire hall that the boy complained of an injured leg, but that his vital signs were in the range of normal. As a precaution, they placed him in a hypothermia warming bag and strapped him to the stretcher.

News of the rescue quickly spread through town. Throughout the community, the yellow and white helicopter was clearly visible hovering above the hillside, marking the progress of the recovery party. In at least one church the news was received only moments after the congregation had prayed for Jeffrey's safe return.

A large crowd gathered at the base of the main Gavan Hill trail, which begins at the end of Baranof Street. Jeffrey's parents, family members, friends, and curious onlookers had walked up the path a couple hundred yards to the first open muskeg area, and cheered and hugged one another as rescuers emerged from the woods carrying the boy, wrapped from head to toe in the rescue blanket. Without pausing, the litter bearers placed Jeffrey into the waiting ambulance. Family hugged and shook hands with Kambak, Caldwell, and Lowe.

"I think I was happier than he was," said Caldwell about his feel-

ings when first coming across the boy. "And he was pretty happy. If it wasn't for Jehova looking out for everyone, we wouldn't have found him. God is the one who led us through. That's who I've got to credit."

Two factors that worked in Jeffrey's favor were the unusually warm and sunny weather of recent days, and the nearby trickle of water that flowed through the gully in which he was located. Dr. Krahn and rescue personnel agreed that if it had been as rainy as usual in Sitka, without shelter the boy would have been at risk of life-threatening hypothermia.

And Kluting observed that while a person can survive for long periods without food, he can't last more than a couple of days without water.

Caldwell said Jeffrey told him he was able to see the Coast Guard and privately owned helicopters overhead during the five days of searching, but that he had not been able to signal them. However, said Caldwell, the boy told him he had not heard the voices of any of the scores of searchers on the ground until the final day. It was not immediately clear how long Young had been at the spot he was found.

Caldwell said the boy told him he had eaten some berries early in the ordeal, but that he had eaten nothing for the last couple of days before his rescue, because there were no berry bushes in the gully. From the gully, the boy could see the town and airport, Caldwell said.

"I've got to hand it to Jeffrey," said Caldwell. "He's a strong boy." Caldwell said the boy told him that he and his older brother had often gone into the woods. "He said his brother was top of the world," said

*Story continues on page 4*

**...in Jeffrey's favor were the unusually warm and sunny weather of recent days, and the nearby trickle of water that flowed through the gully in which he was located.**

**...while a person can survive for long periods without food, he can't last more than a couple of days without water.**

## Lost boy

*Continued from page 3*

Caldwell.

Authorities had suspended the official search Friday night after the intensive effort of the previous three days had not located the boy. Up to that time, said a fire department spokesman, "official" search parties had spent more than 3,000 search hours on the ground in the woods, and an undetermined hundreds of additional hours had been put in by others, including family members who went out on their own.

Helicopters spent 32 hours in the air during the search, including 15.6 hours of flight time in which the Coast Guard was using infrared body heat detectors, said the fire department spokesman. He added that three dogs and their handlers from Juneau had spent 100 hours in the woods.

Although the "official" search was suspended, some 80 volunteers, including members of the fire department, used the fire hall as a starting point for their efforts on Saturday and Sunday. And, as on previous days, an undetermined number went into the woods to search without checking in.

Early Thursday night searchers' hopes had been buoyed when a team headed by Kluting discovered a site on the hillside where they believed the boy had spent a night.

Under the fallen tree someone had lined up sticks to form a wall. There were a child's footprints, where dirt was kicked against the side. Caldwell said the boy, when rescued, confirmed he had spent one night under a log.

Friday's search from the log shelter went down into the Indian River Valley, which seemed to be the direction the small footprints led. Searchers formed a long line, spaced about 10 yards apart, and plowed through devil's club, blueberry bushes, and

deadfalls for the rest of the day.

Kluting said it now appears that Jeffrey went around the side of Gavan Hill and actually climbed higher, to within about 500 feet from the top. At one point, continued Kluting, the boy must have actually crossed the main Gavan Hill trail, apparently without recognizing it, in order to have reached the spot where he was found.

Many Sitkans took off from work and gave up leisure time to beat through the brush, and many others donated food and beverages for the search teams.

Searchers ranged from teenagers to men over 60, who lugged backpacks through the woods all day. Many commented that they were motivated by visions of how they would feel if it were their own child lost in the woods.

Jim and Nancy Hope used their own credit card to advance the expenses of the three bloodhounds and their trainers Sunday.

Said Caldwell, also a father, when the search was ended, "I kept thinking how his folks must feel. A couple dark nights, it really bothered me. I knew he was still out there somewhere. I had a gut feeling."



**...if it had been as rainy as usual in Sitka, without shelter the boy would have been at risk of life-threatening hypothermia.**

# The Daily Sentinel

Sitka, Alaska

Tuesday August 25, 1987

## Boy Bounces Back After 5 Days On Hill

By **Allen Sykora**

*Sentinel Staff Writer*

Nine-year-old Jeffrey Young says he "wasn't ever scared" during his five days and nights alone on Gavan Hill, but adds he'd rather see people than trees."

The boy spoke about his adventure this morning in his Mt. Edgecumbe Hospital room as he opened a model airplane, one of the many gifts from the steady stream of family and friends who have visited him.

Jeffrey was reported missing one week ago today, when he became separated while following his older brother Tom on a hunting trip. The brother reported that he left Jeffrey on the trail to rest, but that Jeffrey was no longer there when he returned.

Jeffrey said he waited for some time, and then decided to walk back to town, and got lost. He said he spent one night underneath a log, forming a wall on one side by arranging sticks. Searchers found this place Thursday night, and the discovery spurred new hope for finding the boy.

Jeffrey said he left that shelter and wandered on, until he ended up in the steep gully where he was finally located by a volunteer searcher Sunday morning.

"I was trying to come back to town and my leg started to get sore," he said today. "I decided to stay there and wait for someone to find me. That's the only way I'd make it."

The examining doctor said Jeffrey was in generally good condition. He suffered some bruises and

swollen feet.

"I wasn't ever scared at all," said Jeffrey. However, he said, when searcher Dave Caldwell walked nearby shouting his name, "I was pretty happy to hear a voice. It's better to see people than it is to see trees."

Jeffrey said he made a bargain with God while on the hill.

"I asked him if I could go home, then I wouldn't fight with my mom any more. I was thinking about getting home and stuff, and riding my bike. Only now I can't," due to his swollen feet, he said.

Dr. Thomas Krahn said no decision had been made on when the youth would be discharged from the hospital. The Mt. Edgecumbe staff physician said Jeffrey was being held for observation due to the swollen feet.

Jeffrey said he didn't get hungry the first couple of days because of an abundance of berries. "There was a bunch of salmonberries up there," he said.

But he ended up in a gully he couldn't get out of and during his last two days on the hillside he had access only to water, he said.

Jeffrey will enter the third grade in the fall. He said he had never hiked up Gavan Hill before, although he had been on top of nearby Harbor Mountain. The story of the search and subsequent rescue of Jeffrey has received national attention. His mother, Jennifer Young, said today that she has received telephone calls from the International News Service and NBC News.

Beginning Wednesday, Sitka res-

cue personnel and volunteers spent thousands of hours combing Gavan Hill and the Indian River Valley. In addition, Coast Guard and private helicopters spent 32 hours searching for the youth.

In addition, more than 100 dog-hours were logged by official search parties, and preparations were under way to bring in bloodhounds when Jeffrey was found on Sunday.

SEADOGS, a Juneau-based group that makes their trained tracking dogs available for searches, brought two golden retrievers and one German shepherd into the search. A golden retriever owned by Sitka Volunteer Fire Department member Karen Royce was also on Gavan Hill.

Some volunteers brought their own dogs to help search at various times, authorities said.

The SEADOGS (Southeast Alaska Dogs) are trained to follow the airborne scent of a search subject, explained coordinator Bruce Bowler. The dogs run freely and follow voice and hand commands.

On the other hand, he said, bloodhounds are generally deployed on a leash and follow the scent trail on the ground. Experienced bloodhounds can also follow an airborne scent, he said.

Besides "trailing," SEADOGS are trained to sniff out victims in caves, earthquakes and avalanches, said Bowler. The handlers also undergo intensive training, not only in trailing with the dogs, but in use of compass and maps, first aid, and wilderness survival, so they are prepared to enter unfamiliar wilderness terrain, said Bowler.