



Casey and the Bear

Three year old Casey Hathaway was found alive last night after having been missing for over two days in rain and frigid temperatures.

It was Linda Fraker that thought she heard crying when she was walking her dogs on Aurora Road in rural eastern NC. She contacted authorities and Shane Grier arrived.

Shane, captain of Chocowinity EMS, heard Casey calling for his mama, from deep in the woods where he was tangled in briars in a flooded area.

Casey was cold and wet, but verbal. He told his family that a bear was his best friend for two days, before requesting French fries from Wendy's and television.

Tonight, Casey is still recovering from hypothermia at Carolina East Medical Center where he was visited by Grier, his new friend.

But, what about that bear?

It's not the first time a missing child has made mention of one. In 1869, three year old Katie Flynn went missing in Manistee National Forest. She was found the next day alive and told searchers that "a big doggie" had stayed with her throughout the night.

In 1888, the New York Times reported a disappearance of a not quite three year old girl. She was found a day later, two miles away in a deep valley and shared that she had slept by a bear that kept her warm that night.

In 1955, Ida Mae Curtis went missing in Kootenai National Forrest in Montana. She, like Casey, was found two days later after 350 backwoodsmen searches in heavy rain. She relayed, to the best of a 2-year-old's ability, being cuddled and comforted by a bear during the time she was missing.

The Montana Sheriff demanded that Ida Mae's family stop telling the story of a bear caring for their little girl. He told them, "Quit telling that story. It could never happen. It didn't happen and don't say it anymore."

I, for one, believe in bears.

