

A FEARFULLY FISHY FISH STORY

by Beth Slater Whitson

Here is a perfectly true fish tale, told by one of the oldest locomotive engineers in the State of Tennessee, a man of integrity and an expert angler. Being given a brief respite from his duties at the throttle, he went fishing up at Coal Creek. His first cast was made with a good-sized live minnow, and a strike came in a few seconds. The fisherman felt that he had hooked a good one and began playing out his reel in order to tire out the trout before taking him in out of the wet. Pretty soon he felt what appeared to be another strike, and began hauling in his line, when, much to his surprise, he found a beautiful specimen of the bass tribe dangling from his line about a foot and a half above the hook. But that was not all. On his hook was another fish of equal size, a dandy trout. The angler could hardly believe what he saw and called to his companion to come over and see his catch. Together they safely landed the two fish, and then began an investigation. It appears that when the trout stuck, the minnow was knocked up the line about eighteen inches but the hook performed its work well, and though the fish put up a game fight he could not free himself. While all this was going on the other fish came along and, seeing the minnow on the line, immediately proceeded to take it in, but in some inexplicable way the line at that point so fastened itself about the gills that he could not free himself.

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