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COOPERSTOWN — A 17-year-old Cooperstown Central School senior was in critical condition Sunday night in Bassett Hospital's intensive care unit after she fell off a 75-foot cliff Friday during a late-teen party near Cherry Valley.

The accident happened between 11 p.m. and midnight on Friday, police said, in a wooded area near O'Neil Road, about three miles from county Route 50 in the town of Cherry Valley.

Two of those present, Randy Stocking and Marty Tracy, both 17, and both students at Springfield Central School, went down the cliff in an effort to help the girl, police said.

Stocking, who climbed down the cliff at the point where the girl fell, suffered cuts on his face and hands. Rescue workers said he slipped and fell when he reached the shale-covered area near where the girl landed. He was treated at Bassett Hospital and was released Saturday morning. Witnesses said Stocking made the descent by grabbing tree roots most of the way. He could not be reached Sunday for comment.

The Tracy youth said that he went down into the ravine at a point further along the cliff's edge.

"I sort of went down on the seat of my pants most of the way, then fell the rest," he said. "We covered her with our shirts and a friend's jacket and tried to keep her warm until the emergency squad got there.

"She could talk, but not very much. We didn't let her move. We just kept her quiet and warm until help came."

Miss Laymon was rescued by members of the Cherry Valley Emergency Squad and Fire Department who used a special basket to carry her out of the ravine.

"She picked the worst spot anybody could fall on there," said Dorsun Davis, emergency squad captain.

Davis said it took about 45 minutes for the rescue team to travel through the ravine and up an embankment to reach the girl.

Tracy said that "there were about 20 kids there, but there wasn't much drinking, at least not by us. Some others were, she hadn't been. We only got there a while before it happened."

He said he and Stocking were the only Springfield Central students at the party. "There were a couple kids there from Cooperstown, but most of the rest were from Cherry Valley," he said.

The Laymon girl is a Cooperstown Central student, who attended the BOCES Occupational Center in Milford. School officials there could not be reached to determine whether she attended classes on Friday.