

## Drowns in Abandoned Quarry Pond

# Friends' Efforts Fail to Save Boy, 12

By MARY JONES

A 12-year-old boy drowned in an abandoned quarry pond in Trumbull north of Beardsley park yesterday afternoon despite the attempts of his companions to rescue him.

Dead is Caesar Lewis, 12 son of Mrs. Carrie Lewis, of 178 Yaremich drive.

One of the boy's friends, Jose Reyes, 12, of 145 Yaremich drive, was treated for immersion and released at St. Vincent's hospital yesterday.

After seeing his friend fall through the ice, young Reyes removed his belt and tried to reach the victim with it but instead crashed through the thin ice himself. Reyes, however, managed to haul himself to safety.

Another companion, David Clemmens, 12, of 138 Yaremich drive, ran for help. After alerting someone in the Old Town road neighborhood who called authorities, Bridgeport firemen arrived and eventually recovered the body. Trumbull and Bridgeport ambulances also responded to the call plus a Trumbull police cruiser.

### Tried To Cross Pond

Authorities said the boys were hiking through the state-owned construction area of Route 25 and attempted to walk across

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Telegram photo—Plummer  
GATHERING FACTS AT DROWNING SCENE — Trumbull police and Trumbull medical examiner, standing behind his black bag, compile information on the drowning death of Caesar Lewis, 12, yesterday in a quarry pond north of Beardsley park.

1972 Feb 12 year old drowns in quarry pond

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## Friends' Efforts Fail to Save Boy, 12, Who Drowns

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the frozen pond around 2 p.m. when the tragedy took place.

Bridgeport Fire Department Lieut. Joseph De Carlo and Patrolman Jack Watcke recovered the body.

After the Reyes youth's futile rescue attempt, he too fled to bring help. He attracted the attention of a motorist who in turn flagged down the approaching Trumbull ambulance. Ambulance personnel took the wet, shivering youth to St. Vincent's hospital while the Trumbull police cruiser carried the body of his friend to the town morgue at the Mullins and Redgate Long Hill funeral home.

"I'll never go back to that place again," the Reyes youth later told a reporter.

Young Jose said he and the drowning victim, his friend for three years, often went to the pond during the summer to hunt for frogs. They hiked there yesterday to see how it looked after a winter's snow and "to see if there were any frogs left," he said.

When the ice gave way beneath Caesar Lewis he saw it was only about a half inch thick. He knelt about a foot away from the struggling youth and threw him his belt "because it was the only thing to do," he said.

After falling in himself he clutched the ice with his arms and supported himself by tree limbs near the surface of the water, he said.

The ice kept breaking while he clung to it but he gradually worked his way back to the shore and climbed out to run for help.

While in the hospital his parents asked him how he felt and he said he was sorry but they told him it was okay. He had tried, they said.

The Lewis boy's body was later transferred to the M. McDonald Isaac, Jr., funeral home, 555 Stratford avenue, which is in charge of arrangements. Both State and Trumbull police are investigating.

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