

## Youth drowns in quarry

Three fire departments tried unsuccessfully Sunday night to recover the body of an unidentified teen-ager who drowned at an abandoned quarry in northern Cortlandt Sunday night.

State police at Peekskill withheld the identity of the male victim until family members were notified, but said he was not from the area. The youth, police said, was one of a group of 20 teens swimming in the quarry off Croton Avenue. He attempted to swim the 300 feet across the quarry but sank before reaching the other side, police said.

Units from the fire departments of Mohegan Lake, Verplanck and Yorktown Heights were on the scene at the quarry.

A spokesman for the Mohegan Lake department, which is closest to the quarry, said the drowning was reported to them by state police at 6:20 p.m.

The search for the body was called off shortly after 10 p.m. and was scheduled to resume this morning.

The quarry is often used as a swimming hole by local youths, and was the scene of a drowning about two weeks ago.

Cortlandt Supervisor Charles DiGiacomo said this morning he planned to meet with town officials to discuss what could be done to control swimming at the 45-acre site. He said he planned to discuss a number of alternatives including filling in the quarry, draining it, or increasing town supervision and enforcement around the private property. He said the town has a "moral responsibility" to curb swimming there, and added that the owners had offered to sell the property for \$90,000.

DiGiacomo previously has called on the state police and the quarry owner, Quarry Acres Realty Inc. of New York City, to curtail use of the swimming hole which he says has claimed 28 lives in the past 35 years.

He said he had asked state police to beef up their patrols of the area and, in order to discourage visits by swimmers, to give tickets to any cars found parked illegally.

The supervisor said today that state police had begun issuing \$50 summonses for swimming at the quarry, but added that state police have only two-man patrols which are insufficient for adequate coverage.

Cracking down on what DiGiacomo admitted was an "absolutely beautiful" swimming hole may be complicated by the fact that many of its users are from out of town, he said.

A 16-year-old Peekskill boy drowned July 11 after diving from a ledge into the 60-foot deep quarry.

The victim, Michael Plessner of 18 N. Third St., Peekskill, went to the quarry with two friends at about 12:30 p.m. After swimming for about a half hour, he took a dive from a ledge, and witnesses told police he landed hard on his side in the water. He disappeared under water as he two friends watched helplessly from shore.