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# Teenager drowns in pond

DE SOTO — Johnson County recorded its first drowning death in 1981 Wednesday when the body of a Kansas City, Kan., teenager was pulled from a pond at an abandoned rock quarry southeast of De Soto.

The victim was identified as Ricky Reynolds, 17, by the Johnson County Sheriff's Office Wednesday night.

Reynolds and a friend, Victor McMohon, 20, also of Kansas City, Kan., were swimming at the Cedar Creek Quarry around 5 p.m. when Reynolds disappeared after diving into the water.

According to officials at the scene of the drowning, no swimming is allowed in the quarry pond, but youths have kept swimming there despite several warnings from the Monticello Fire Department and sheriff's office.

There apparently are no "no swimming" signs posted at the quarry, which was created when new K-10 highway was constructed some years ago.

A sheriff's spokesman said Wednesday night that the drowning was reported around 5 p.m. Reynolds' body was recovered about two hours later by two divers from the sheriff's office. The body was found in about six feet of water.

"We jumped off the cliff. I went in first. I saw Rick come in and then come up. Then I swam to the bank. I looked back and couldn't see him," McMohon said as the search for his friend's body took place nearby.

"Then I went back up the cliff. He wasn't up there, so I dove in where his shoe was floating, but I couldn't find him."

The quarry pond is located just south of 95th Street off Cedar Creek Road. It is about four miles southeast of De Soto.

Investigation into the drowning death was being handled by the sheriff's office.

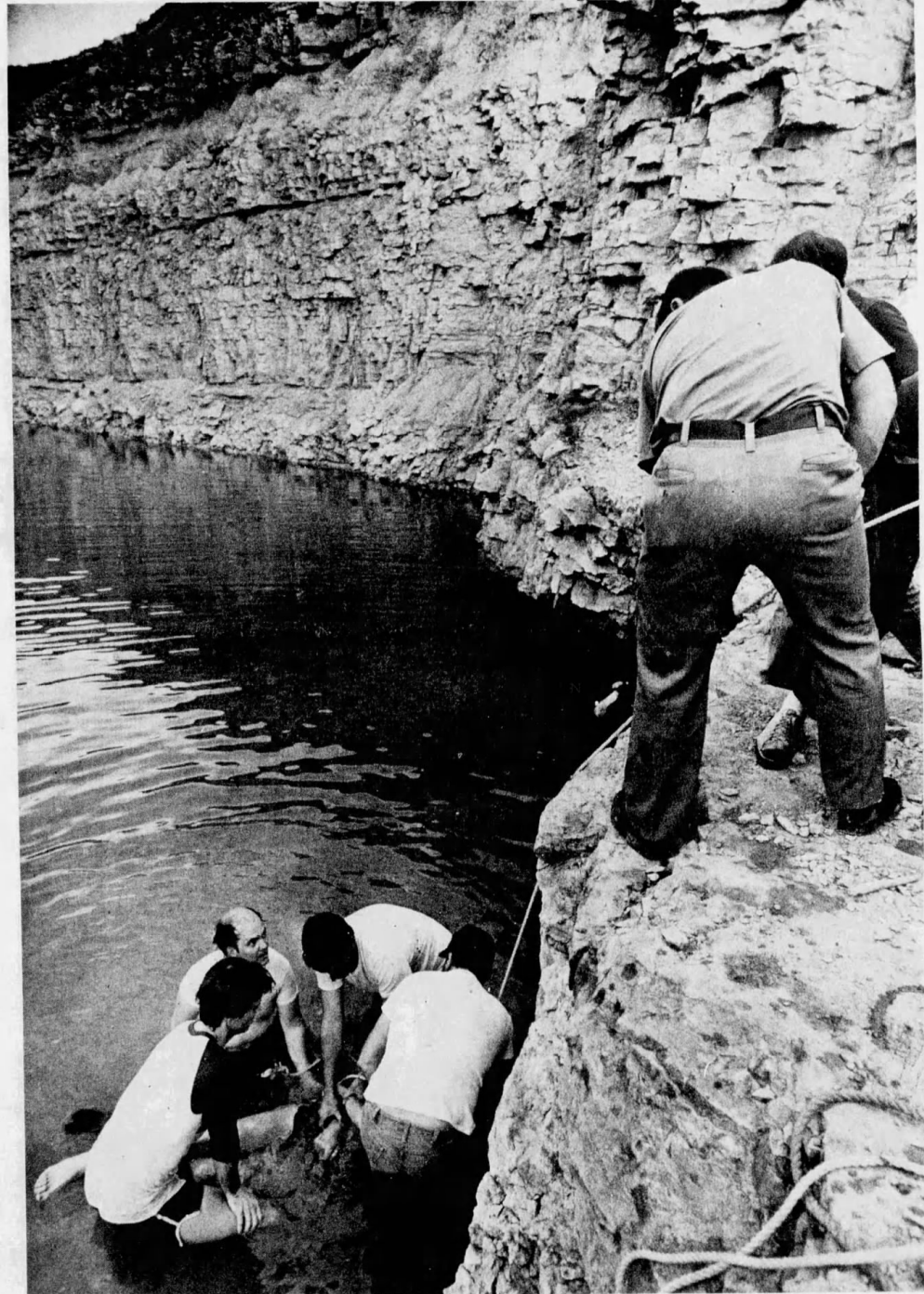


Photo by John Sleezer

Sheriff's divers and Monticello Township firefighters remove body.

1981 Apr Rick Reynolds drowned in quarry

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