

Teen drowns in Fremont quarry lake

By Rudy Van der Veer
Tribune Staff Writer

FREMONT — A 13-year-old Niles District boy fell from an abandoned dredging barge in one of Fremont's quarry lakes, hit his head on a steel beam and drowned Thursday as his brother and several friends watched in horror.

A team of divers from the Alameda County sheriff's office retrieved the body of David Lee Mackey from the underwater gear of the barge, where it had been trapped for two hours.

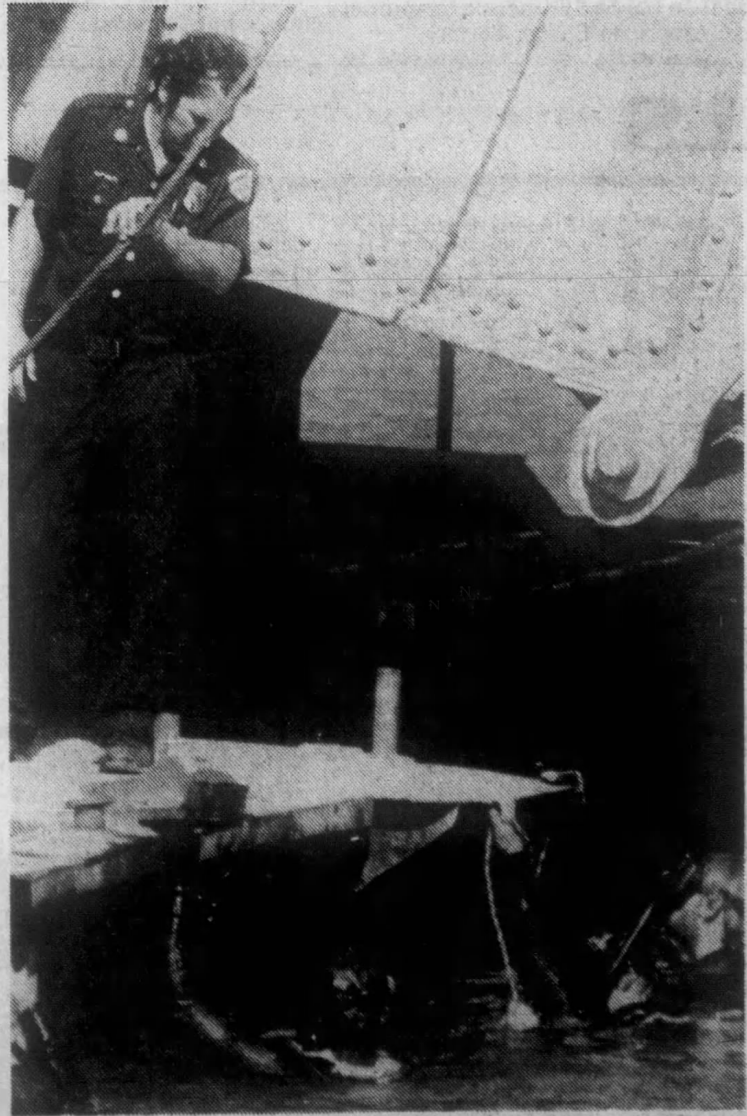
A close friend of Mackey's, 13-year-old James Brugette said Mackey was exploring the huge metal scooping cups of the dredge when a park ranger appeared on a ridge above the barge and shouted: "Hey, you boys down there!"

A startled Mackey lost his balance and plunged 25 feet to the water.

Brugette said he tried several times to help find his friend.

The victim's mother and father, Richard and Judy Mackey of 3163 Waugh Place, Fremont, watched for a few minutes as a sheriff's department diver entered the water but left at the insistence of police and friends before the body was recovered.

"It's my son down there and I'm going to stay," Mrs. Mackey said as she stood on the edge of the lake before her husband escorted her and the victim's brother, Dennis, to the family car.



Tribune photo by Robert Stinnett

Divers search quarry for body of 13-year-old David Mackey.

1981 Aug David Mackey drowns at quarry
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