

Man drowns in pond

CLEARWATER (AP) — An autopsy on a 35-year-old North Augusta man who drowned Sunday in a popular swimming hole near here indicates he had stomach cramps, says Aiken County Coroner Sue Townsend.

The cold water in the abandoned clay quarry also may have caused Freddie Lowman to drown, according to Sgt. Bennett Smith, an investigator with the Aiken County Sheriff's Department.

"The water was awfully cool down there ... there was nothing for him to have gotten hung up on," said Smith.

Sheriff's Department divers recovered Lowman's body from the pond known as the Clay Pits around 5:25 p.m., nearly 2½ hours after the drowning was reported. The body was found in 25 feet of water.

Lowman was trying to swim across the pond when he slipped below the surface in the middle, about 50 yards from shore, according to Mrs. Townsend.

"He tried to call for help, but all he could say was 'Hey,'" said eyewitness Donald Sapp of Bath.

Sapp said he was on shore when Lowman called for help, but was too far away to make a rescue attempt.

The sheriff's department said it had no plans to close the Clay Pits to swimming.

1983 Jul Freddie Lowman drowns at quarry SC

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