

# N.C. Man Swimming In Quarry Drowns

By **ROBERT CONN**

Staff Writer

A 30-year-old Hiddenite man dove about 50 feet to his death while swimming in an abandoned rock quarry Saturday, the Iredell County Sheriff's Department said Sunday.

The man was identified as Jeffrey Lee Parker, who was employed at Craftsmasters in Hiddenite.

Lloyd Campbell of the sheriff's department said Parker's body was recovered Sunday morning by divers from the Mount Holly rescue squad. The quarry is off Dobson Road in rural Iredell County.

Campbell said several witnesses told officials Parker dove twice. The first time, he pancaked on his belly into the water. He swam to the bank, got out and rested, drinking a beer with friends.

The second time he dove, "He came up once, turned on his side, went down and didn't come up again," Campbell said.

He said the water at the point is 40 to 50 feet deep, so Parker couldn't have struck bottom. But he said in his opinion, Parker had broken his neck, probably from the force of the dive. "It was 50 to 60 feet before he hit water."

He said the quarry, which was posted with no trespassing signs, was nonetheless a popular swimming spot for people of all ages, attracting even those with their own swimming pools.

Campbell said the quarry was well off the road. "We never get any complaints," he said, and he couldn't recall any arrests for trespassing.

He said rescue workers unsuccessfully dragged the quarry Saturday evening before the search was suspended. The Mount Holly crew found the body within 10 minutes after they started Sunday, he said.

He said Parker was a divorced father of two.