

City man drowns in limestone quarry

By IRVIN KITTRELL III
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A 31-year-old York man was believed to have accidentally drowned in an abandoned West Manchester Township quarry, according to authorities.

Divers found the body of Walter Robertson, of the 1000 block of West Princess Street, in 30 feet of water around 6:10 p.m. Monday. The body was in the abandoned limestone quarry off East Berlin Road in West Manchester, said township police Chief Robert March II.

"It appears it was an accidental drowning," he said.

York County Coroner Kathryn Fourhman-Olewiler also said the drowning appears accidental. But, she added, there were "unusual circumstances" surrounding the incident.

Mrs. Olewiler said Mr. Robertson was last seen alive between 11 a.m. and noon Saturday with some friends. They were at the quarry swimming, she added.

"He went out around the point and that was the last they saw him," the chief said a witness told police.

The friends, however, did not

report Mr. Robertson missing until around 4 p.m. Sunday, the coroner said.

Mr. Robertson's vehicle and clothes were still at the quarry Monday, the chief said. Mr. Robertson had on bathing trunks when divers found him.

Mrs. Olewiler said she doesn't know why it took Mr. Robertson's friends so long to notify police.

"I certainly can't answer for those gentlemen," said Chief March. "I guess they thought they were going to get in trouble."

The quarry is on private land, which has a posted sign, the coroner said.

This is the first reported drowning at the quarry in more than 15 years, the chief said.

Mr. Robertson was the third man to drown in York County waters in less than three days.

On Sunday, Guy E. Myers, 55, of Dillsburg, and Jonathan Dodson Sr., of Middletown, Dauphin County, both were reported drowned in the Susquehanna River. Mr. Dodson's body was recovered on Sunday, while Mr. Myers' body was not found until Tuesday morning.

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