

# Del. man ignores warning, drowns in Pa. quarry lake

Associated Press

DELTA, Pa. — On summer evenings at Funkhauser Quarry, the cool water beckons those seeking relief from the heat. But swimming there is illegal — and dangerous.

A 30-year-old Delaware man drowned about noon June 19 while swimming in the York County quarry with family members.

Patrick Henry Markland of the 100 block of Atlantic Ave., Richardson Park, left the group and was swimming on his own when he died, said Trooper Jere Hershberger of the Pennsylvania State Police at York.

"A lot of Delawareans swim there," Hershberger said of the quarry near the Peach Bottom Power Plant, about 15 miles south of Three Mile Island on the Susquehanna River.

"I don't know how they found out about it, but I've personally ticketed several Delawareans for swimming on private property there," Hershberger said. Nearly all of the Markland party were from Delaware, he said.

"No Trespassing" signs don't dissuade swimmers and others who pack the rough gravel beach on weekend nights to jump and dive from the cliffs into the water below.

"It's not the place people should be. There are better and safer things to do to take care of the heat," said Charles Smith of the Maryland-based Slate Ridge Partnership, which owns the land.

Slate Ridge bought the property in 1990 but the quarry has continued to haunt its previous owner, 221 F Co. Inc.:

- In May, the company paid \$30,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of another man who died in the quarry.

- In 1988, a 21-year-old man drove his motorcycle over a cliff and plummeted 175 feet into the quarry lake.

- On July 9, a 24-year-old York man drowned at an abandoned quarry in East Manchester Township. Two friends watched him jump from a 40-foot cliff into about 20 feet of water. He apparently broke his foot after hitting bottom and drowned before his friends could help him.

Both quarries are on private property and not open to swimmers. Police frequently cite violators for trespassing.

State police last weekend cited 80 people. Cpl. Julio Mendez said troopers do so several times each summer, trying to keep people away.

Staff reporter Nan Clements contributed to this article.

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