

Whitehall man jumps into quarry, drowns

The body of a teenager who disappeared after jumping into a Slatington area quarry while swimming with friends Monday afternoon was recovered several hours later. Dwayne Sommers, 19, of Whitehall Township, accidentally drowned in the Pennsy Quarry off Seventh Street in Washington Township, state police said. Despite no-trespassing signs, teens and young adults continue to visit the quarry on steamy days, police said.

What's next? State police at Bethlehem are continuing an investigation.

2009 May 19 year old drowns at quarry

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Quarry death brings back painful memories

What a horrible headline on May 26, "Whitehall man, 19, drowns in quarry"! Every time I hear of such a tragedy it brings back the memory of when I experienced the loss of a friend at a quarry near the very site of this most recent incident.

It was the summer of 1987, it was hot, and a bunch of us friends wanted to go to the quarry to swim for free. The situation was the same; our friend jumped in and never resurfaced. Rescue personnel had to have the entrance to the quarry bulldozed before they could gain access, losing precious time. These quarries are blocked off and marked no trespassing for a reason. I will never forget the pain of seeing my friend being recovered or the pain of his parents and younger brother when they got the news.

Before you jump into a quarry, please think. It is dangerous and you never know what is in those waters. I will carry this awful memory for the rest of my life.

Patrice Pion
Allentown

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