

2 BOY SWIMMERS DROWN IN QUARRY PIT NEAR ROSLYN

Mt. Airy Chums Perish in Lake Champlain When Boat Sinks

Companion of Lads Who Brave Rain-swollen Hole Gets Aid Too Late

Four boys, residents of this city or nearby points, were drowned while away from home, according to reports received here yesterday.

Two of the boys perished while swimming in a deserted quarry hole near Abington township, Montgomery county. The other two lads, sons of families living in Mt. Airy, were drowned in Lake Champlain, New York, when a rowboat bearing them with three companions, sank after a hole had been stove in the bottom when it struck a submerged rock.

The bodies of the boys drowned in the quarry, one of whom lived in this city, but whose parents had taken a summer home near Glenside, and the other a resident of Edge Hill, were recovered yesterday, after the Abington officials had grappled several hours in the rain-fed pool behind Hillside Cemetery, near Roslyn. The bodies of the two boys drowned in Lake Champlain have not been recovered.

The drowned boys are:

Elmer Kaucher, 12 years old, whose home was at Fifth street and Lehigh avenue, this city, but who was living for the summer near Glenside, drowned in the quarry pit near Roslyn.

Joseph Musicanna, 12 years old, of Edge Hill, drowned in the quarry pit near Roslyn.

Robert Forrester, 15 years old, of 116 West Gorgas Lane, Mt. Airy; drowned in Lake Champlain.

Warren Conrad, 15 years old, of 117 West Gorgas Lane, Mt. Airy; drowned in Lake Champlain.

The Kaucher and Musicanna boys, together with another lad of the same age, went Friday evening for a walk through the woods, and visited the old quarry, long abandoned, just back of Hillside Cemetery. Normally the water in the pit is about three feet deep, but

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2 Boy Swimmers Drown in Quarry Pit Near Roslyn

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owing to the recent rains, it is now an attractive "swimming hole," from twelve to fifteen feet deep.

Water too Big Temptation

The water was too strong a temptation for the two boys, and stripping off their clothes, they plunged into the pool. Either the water was deeper than they had supposed, or they were not strong swimmers, for in a few minutes the other boy, standing on the bank, saw his companions struggling and calling for help.

Terrified, the third member of the party ran to his home at Edge Hill, nearly a mile distant, and told the story to his father, who telephoned immediately to the Abington police. Policemen Kenny and Papes were dispatched in motor cars. The directions given over the telephone were not clear, and it was nearly half an hour before the policemen reached the abandoned quarry. Immediately they began to grapple for the bodies and in a short time dragged the body of Elmer Kaucher from the pool. It was not until after more than two hours of grappling that the body of Joseph Musicanna was recovered. Both bodies were sent to an undertaker's establishment in Jenkintown. This is the second double drowning in Abington township quarry holes within a year. Coroner Neville yesterday held an inquest and decided the drowning had been accidental.

Elmer Kaucher was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kaucher. Joseph Musicanna was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Musicanna.

Report of the drowning of Warren Conrad and Robert Forrester was wired to this city by Charles K. Taylor, who conducts Camp Penn, a boys' camp at Valcour Island, Clinton county, New York, near the scene of the drowning.

Were Close Chums For Years

The Conrad and Forrester lads had been close chums for more than seven years. Both were members of Boy Scout Troop No. 29, connected with Summit Presbyterian Church, Greene and Westview streets, Germantown. About a month ago they went to Camp Penn.

Thursday afternoon the two boys, accompanied by their companions, rowed across Lake Champlain for the camp mail. On the return trip the boat struck a submerged rock, which tore a jagged hole in its bottom.

Neither Conrad nor Forrester were expert swimmers and in a short time they became exhausted and sank. The

other boys were too far away to render aid.

A professional diver from Plattsburg has been employed to assist the residents of Valcour and the other boys of the camp in their search for the bodies of the drowned lads.

Conrad and Forrester were taken to the camp by Dunbar Shewell, assistant scoutmaster of Troop 29. Mr. Shewell promised them a two month's vacation if their scholastic records were good.

Conrad was a third year student in the Germantown High School and Forrester attended the Charley W. Henry School at Carpenter and Greene streets.

The lads passed their school examinations successfully. They intended to remain at the camp during August.

Elmer Conrad is the son of E. F. Conrad, who is employed on a Philadelphia newspaper. He is survived also by an elder brother, Howard L. Conrad, who is a swimming instructor in the Philadelphia swimming pools. Robert G. Forrester, father of the other boy, is employed in the Philadelphia

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