

Drowned in Quarry Hole

Colored Employee at Leacrafts Inn Is Drowned in Abandoned Quarry Hole at West Hurley—Great Difficulty in Raising Body.

Albert Fields, colored, of 220 West 64th street, New York city, a waiter at Leacrafts Inn at West Hurley was drowned about noon Saturday in an abandoned quarry hole located in the woods across from the inn. Fields had arrived from New York city but a few days before and had been warned not to swim in the quarry as the water is cold spring water and was dangerous even to an experienced swimmer.

Shortly after noon he in company with another employe at the inn, Charles Corey, went to the quarry for a bath. Fields was seized with cramps when he swam into the cold spring water and Corey who is not an expert swimmer attempted to save him. Corey was carried under the water by the struggles of the drowning man and only after narrowly escaping drowning was he able to pull away from the death grasp of Fields. Corey has several deep finger marks on his back and throat where the drowning man had gripped him. Unable to save Fields Corey notified people at the inn and then broke down from his thrilling experience.

The sheriff's office was notified and Deputy Seth Jocelyn and Sergeant James Cunningham of the State Troopers went to the scene. The word received at the sheriff's office was to the effect that a man was attempting to drown himself and the officials were driven to the scene in rapid manner by Arthur Plick who offered the services of his car. Arriving at the inn the officials learned that the man was already dead and Coroner Conner was notified. Mr. Conner was out on another case and George Chambers and N. D. J. Murphy responded.

In the meantime efforts were made to raise the body which was in from fifteen to twenty feet of water. John Hampton an employe at the inn attempted to raise the body by grappling from a raft only to have the grappling hook break. Efforts to place a rope about the body were of no avail and Sergeant Cunningham and Walter E. Drury of 81 Green street this city dived into the cold water numerous times in an effort to place a rope about the body. Sergeant Cunningham and Mr. Drury finally dove deep into the water and seized the body by hand and foot and raised it to the surface where it was made fast until the arrival of acting Coroner Murphy.

The body was taken to the undertaking parlors of Mr. Conner and after an examination the cause of the death was given as accidental drowning.

Fields had been secured through an employment agency but a few days before and little was known of his family. It is said he was married and has three children. The body was shipped to New York Sunday.

The place where the drowning took place is used by many as a swimming hole. It is an abandoned quarry which has filled from springs and the water in places over the springs is ice cold. The pool is filled with sharp jagged rocks and in places is twenty-five feet deep while other places it is shallow. Fields was not a strong swimmer.

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