

# 1,000 WATCH RECOVERY OF DROWNED BOY

George Martin, 14, Of Tarrant City, Believed  
Cramps Victim

## COMPANION AT SCENE

Another Youth Describes  
Horror Of Seeing  
Pal Die

While more than 1,000 men, women and children looked on from the high banks of the abandoned rock quarry near Tarrant City, a professional diver brought the body of 14-year-old George Martin to the surface at 9:30 a.m. Friday, ending a search of the deep waters which started at 4 p.m. Thursday.

George Finney, 14-year-old companion of the drowned youth, stood on the bank of the quarry pool at the water's edge beside the father of his friend, and directed the diver's activities.

The diver, Louis Spraggins, 4200 Walnut st., was in the water less than 20 minutes when he gave the signal on his life line that he had discovered the youth's body in an 80-foot depth. The body was prone on the bottom, doubled in such a manner as to indicate that he was attacked with cramps when he went under.

It was not until Friday morning that young Finney admitted that he was with the Martin boy when the drowning occurred Thursday afternoon. Finney is a sophomore in high school.

### 'Afraid to Say Anything'

"I was afraid to say anything about it," he said.

"Dad was at work, so I decided to wait until he came home and tell him about it.

"George asked me to go to the quarry with him. He said he wanted to show me how easy it was to swim across. I can't swim.

"I went with him and he stripped off on the bank. He

(TURN TO PAGE TWO)

1929 Jun George Martin drowns at quarry  
AL

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Dec 15, 2024

**1,000 SEE RECOVERY OF DROWNED YOUTH**

started swimming across, easily, until he got more than half way across.

"Then he sort of jerked in the water and screamed.

**'Went Down Several Times'**

"He went up and down several times, but I couldn't do anything —there was no boat in the pond and I couldn't swim.

"It was awful the way he screamed . . . and then he went down and didn't come up anymore and I got scared and ran home."

Amateur divers worked thruout the night while crews of men with grappling and drag hooks searched the deep waters for the youth's body.

**Clothing Tells Story**

The boy's clothing was found on the quarry bank by three other youths, who reported their find to Tarrant City police. Dee Martin, father of the drowned lad, identified the clothing as that worn by his son.

Late Thursday afternoon and thruout Thursday night, hundreds of persons lined the banks of the quarry pool watching the crews dragging the water and the divers. Boats were sent to the quarry from East Lake.

**Fifth Victim**

Young Martin is the fifth youth to drown in the same quarry pool in recent years. Two of the other victims were negroes and the others white boys.

The pool ranges in depth from 50 to 110 feet.

According to residents of the vicinity, the rock quarry was abandoned when a blast uncovered a large spring in one end. Before workmen could remove them, residents say, several railroad cars, a "dinky" engine and a huge rock crusher were covered with the rapidly rising water.

A blacksmith's shop, built into a cave on one side of the quarry and used by the workmen, was also submerged by the spring water. When it was found impracticable to drain the quarry, it was abandoned.

The quarry proper is about 300 feet deep, its walls forming precipices which have a sheer drop of about 200 feet to the water's surface.

Young Martin's body was taken in charge by Vice.

**Father Sees Son**

As the body was brought to the hillside near the quarry, his father stepped up and drew the covering from the small face.

Reverently the crowd held back, and men removed their hats. For a full five minutes there was not a movement on the sun-baked hillside.

Big tears rolled down the seamed face of the father, and with trembling hands he replaced the sheet over his son's face.

Slowly the crowd drifted its several ways.

And the father trudged over the hill toward the neat little white cottage in East Tarrant where a mother waited for word from her son.

1929 Jun George Martin drowns at quarry  
AL

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Dec 15, 2024