

Couple Drown In Abandoned Quarry West of Eugene

Ruby Colvin, 21, and Homer Walters, 25, Were Victims of Tragedy Friday Night at 9:00 O'Clock.

The 1937 vacation season death toll by drowning was increased by two Friday night when Ruby Colvin and Homer Walters of the Etterville community waded in beyond their depth in the old lime kiln rock quarry at Gartite on the Rock Island railroad, midway between Eugene and Etterville.

About nine o'clock that night they, accompanied by Gerald Haynes of the same community, went to the quarry, which had filled with water to a depth of 25 or 30 feet in places, to go in swimming. For a number of years the pool, which is about 200 feet long and almost that wide, had been used for swimming by people of that neighborhood. In places the pool had an abrupt decline. When the trio parked the car at the east end of the quarry, Miss Colvin and Walters went to the northwest corner of the pool and entered the water, young Haynes declining to go in as he declared he could not swim.

When he heard calls for help he went to their aid and waded out till the water struck him under the arm-pits, but he could not quite reach them. Walters could swim, but the Colvin girl could not, and it is presumed that she clung to him when she realized that she was drowning.

When Haynes saw them disappear, he got into the car, which belonged to Walters, and drove down to the service station at the junction of highways 84 and 85, two miles north of Eugene. From there he phoned to people in Eugene and to Sheriff Tyler. A rescue party, including F. V. Kaltenbach and Truman Vernon, was organized at Eugene and a small boat belonging to Jesse Loggbrink, which was stored in town, was taken to the pool. They and Sheriff Tyler and Deputy Asa Gunn recovered the two bodies about 3:00 o'clock the morning following the drowning, by the use of lines and fish hooks.

The Phillips Funeral Home at Eldon and the County Coroner, Dr. G. D. Walker, were notified. Dr. Walker decided that the drowning was accidental. The bodies were taken to the Phillips mortuary and prepared for burial. An undertaker, accompanied by the parents of Walters, came from Poplar Bluff and the body of young Walters was taken to Van-Buren for burial.

Walters, who was 25 years old, had been making his home with Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Gartin, near Etterville, for the past eight years. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Walters of Fremont, Mo. His funeral was held Monday.

Miss Colvin was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Colvin, Mrs. Colvin being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wyrick (both now deceased) who lived near Tuscumbia. The Colvin family lives on the Chester Farris farm, a few miles south of Etterville.

Miss Colvin is survived by the parents and the following brothers and sisters, all at home: Bertha, Evelyn, Bonnie, George and Arthur.

Funeral services were held for her at Mt. Zion Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Omar Hickey of Eugene, and burial was in the church cemetery nearby, with Phillips Funeral Home in charge of burial arrangements.