

Girl Drowns In Old Quarry While Wading

Wading in Riley creek in Orange township, nine-year-old Betty Rae Wagner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wagner, southeast of Bluffton, was drowned last Wednesday afternoon when she stepped into six feet of water in the abandoned Collingwood quarry.

Riley creek at the place where the drowning occurred leads into the unused quarry, and the victim stepped from knee deep water into the depths of the abandoned stone workings.

With her were her brothers, Robert, 11, and Carl Dean, 7, who ran for help. Enroute they encountered Roy Scheidiger who rushed to the quarry but was unable to find the body.

Others soon joined the searching party but it was approximately 45 minutes before the body was recovered. Lowell Reese, life guard from Ada, administered artificial respiration for nearly an hour but was unable to resuscitate the child.

Betty Rae, with her brothers, was visiting at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wagner, four miles northeast of Ada, when they decided to go wading in the creek.

The girl's father is employed at the Dean Davis garage, at the intersection of the Lincoln highway and Route 69. The mother works in Bluffton.

In addition to the parents and brothers, the child is survived by grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. David Nusbaum, west of Bluffton; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wagner, and great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Cummins, of Orange township.

Funeral services were held Friday at the Riley Creek Baptist church, with Rev. Peter Steiner, of Lima, officiating. Interment was in Hassen cemetery.

1941 Jul Betty Wagner drowns at quarry
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