

3 BOYS DROWNED IN QUARRY; DIVER RECOVERS BODIES

Fall Into Icy Water More
Than 250 Feet Deep
When Rickety Raft Goes
to Pieces.

WERE ONLY 10 FEET
FROM THE BANK

Victims Are Tony Lumia,
13, William Kennedy, 11,
and William Sherrill, 10
—Friend Sees Tragedy.

Three small boys drowned yesterday when they ventured out on the icy surface of water 250 feet deep in the abandoned Heman Quarry at Ashland and Euclid avenue on a flimsy plank raft which broke up only 10 feet from the edge of the quarry.

The boys were:

William Sherrill, 10 years old, a fifth grade pupil at Cupples School, who lived at 4733 Cote Brillante avenue.

William Kennedy, 11 years old, a sixth grade pupil at Cupples School, who lived at 1914 Wagoner place.

Anthony Lumia, 13 years old, a seventh grade pupil at Benton School, who lived at 2814 Marcus avenue.

The Sherrill and Kennedy boys had gone to the quarry with Lowell Bearden, 10 years old, 4584 St. Ferdinand avenue, who stayed on the quarry's edge.

The Bearden boy told a Post-Dispatch reporter they found the quarry covered with a thin surface of ice near the edges, except for a patch of clear water in the immediate vicinity of the raft, which was only three feet wide and five feet long.

Declined Ride on Raft.

"When we got there Tony was standing on the raft at the shore," he continued. "Tony asked me if I wanted a ride on the raft and I said, 'No.' Then he asked the other boys if they wanted a ride. They asked me to step on the raft to see how strong it was. I pushed my foot on it and it didn't fall apart so the other two boys got on it.

"They pushed it off from shore with a pole. They had an oar to paddle with but when they got about 10 feet away one of the main boards holding the raft together broke loose and they fell in the water.

"The Sherrill boy went down right away. Bill Kennedy was sort of beating the water with his hands—he didn't know how to swim—and he shouted, 'Don't worry about me.'

"There was ice around the sides of the quarry, except where the raft had been, but he couldn't reach it. The Lumia boy was just lying still on top of the water.

"I ran to get help. I ran up to the top of the hill, where there was a little house for the man who checks trucks in and out of the quarry, and told him to help.

"By that time the Kennedy boy had already gone down, and as soon as Tony Lumia sank I ran home.

"I was too scared to tell my parents—I stayed out in the yard a

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Three Boys Drown in Quarry; Diver Recovers Their Bodies

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while. When I went in I asked mother if she would be sick if I told her something bad, and she said she would, so I didn't tell her for a while."

After a futile effort to recover the bodies with grappling hooks, a professional diver was called, and early in the evening he brought the bodies to the surface.

As the search for the bodies progressed a crowd of more than 1000 gathered on the rim of the quarry. Powerful searchlights threw an eerie gleam on the surface of the water, and four large bonfires lit the scene. A radio station strung wires to the rim of the quarry and broadcast a description of the rescue effort.

Diver Goes Down.

At dusk the diver, Jack Pleimann, was on the scene with his equipment, carried in an automobile trailer. He donned a waterproof suit of flexible yellow material over heavy clothing and two assistants bolted the metal helmet over his head. On his feet were shoes soled with lead.

Two men twirled the air pump as the diver was lowered into the frigid water. Watchers on the rim of the quarry could observe his progress as he made his way along the rock ledges by the bubbles which arose from his diving suit. He found the bodies about 110 feet down.

Before the diver was obtained, firemen and police, dragging the pond, found nothing but three caps and two pairs of gloves.

Fire Chief Lawrence Cornoyer, directing the rescue effort, made arrangements to employ Pleimann.

Mayor Bernard F. Dickmann and Democratic Committeeman Patrick Burke, of the Twenty-second Ward, each pledged \$100 toward the diver's fee. A brother of the Lumia boy and the Sherrill boy's mother also said they would pay part of the expense of recovering the bodies. The quarry, used as a dump, is partly filled with debris, making diving hazardous.

Another account of what happened was given to a Post-Dispatch reporter by 10-year-old Robert Kujath, 4719A Natural Bridge avenue, who said he was flying a kite on a vacant lot when he heard cries for help from the quarry. He ran there and saw the boys on the raft.

"The raft was tipping and one boy shouted to the other, 'Go to the back; go to the back'", the Kujath boy related.

"The boys went to the end of the raft and their weight tipped it more," the boy continued. "They fell in the water. The big boy was still on the raft and he tried to pull them out. He fell in too. I hollered for help and another boy rode away on a bicycle to get someone to help."

Father Happens By.

Joseph Strunk, stepfather of William Sherrill, told a reporter he was delivering coal in the neighborhood of the quarry when he

saw the police department emergency truck pass.

"My helper and I followed the truck to see what happened," he said. "We watched the rescue work for about 45 minutes without even thinking that Billy might be in there. I commented: 'There's certainly going to be a tragedy in some family tonight.'" Strunk was not notified of the death of his stepson until he had returned to the coal company yards.

William Sherrill's parents are divorced and the father, DeLafayette Sherill, a pipefitter, resides in St. Louis County.

The Lumia boy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James V. Lumia.

William Kennedy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Kennedy. Seven sisters and four brothers also survive him.

Partly Fenced Off.

Abandoned for 20 years, the quarry has been regarded as a danger spot. It is partly fenced and there is a steep descent of about 30 feet from the brim to the water's edge. The water forms a pool about 200 by 400 feet.

In 1931, after John Pike, 11 years old, 4510A Maffitt avenue, drowned in the pond, an official effort was made to close the quarry and the Pike boy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Pike, obtained a \$5000 verdict in Circuit Court against the owners on grounds of negligence. Police subsequently were ordered to make a survey of

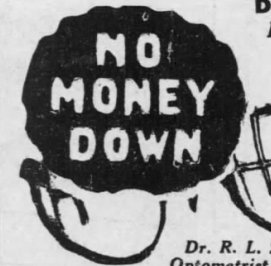
all sink holes, abandoned quarries and other danger spots in the city.

Police were unable to learn last night the name of the present owner of the quarry. Arthur B. Heman, 119 North Holmes avenue, Kirkwood, told a reporter it had once been owned by his late father, G. A. Heman, but was then heavily encumbered with mortgages and back taxes and was not an asset of his father's estate when the final settlement was made. Deputy City Comptroller Charles L. Cunningham said the city had not acquired the property for taxes. Because records were not accessible last night Cunningham could not say who the owner was.

Girl Playing With Pistol Killed.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., March 1 (AP).—Colleen Oligier, 9 years old, was fatally shot today while she and a playmate, Dorothy Freeman, 9, were playing with a loaded pistol.

GLASSES O



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Optometrist

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