

## Sixth Man in 2-Year Period Drowns in Gravel Pit Pond

Alexander L. Martin, 21, of the 2400 block Fourth Ave., a University of Richmond premedical student, became the sixth person to drown in Highland Park area gravel pits during the past two years.

Mr. Martin, a veteran of 27 months in the Air Force, was drowned some time yesterday afternoon when he crashed through the ice while skating on a pond located in an abandoned quarry of the Highland Park Sand Company, according to Henrico police.

Relatives of Mr. Martin reported that he left home about 1 P. M. yesterday. Neighbors and friends began to search for him when he failed to return home. Henrico police said they received a call at 8:20 o'clock last night that the man was missing.

Mr. Martin's body was recovered shortly after midnight by the Richmond Fire Department rescue squad after Officer Roland Williams, of the Richmond police, found the man's car at the edge of the old pit. Noticing a hole in the ice, the officer summoned the rescue squad shortly after 11 P. M.

Members of the squad said rigor mortis had set in when Martin's body was taken from the icy water. His ice skates were on when the body was recovered, police said.

Funeral services will be held at 3:30 P. M. Sunday in the Joseph W. Bliley Funeral Home, with interment in Riverview Cemetery. Mr. Martin is survived by his wife, Vera Fischer Martin; his mother, Mrs. Violet Trites; grandmother, Mrs. A. L. Martin, Sr.; a half-sister, Miss Anne Trites; three aunts and an uncle.

### Garton, Finnegan Warn Ice Skaters

Police Chief Garton and Fire Chief Finnegan issued a joint warning today to "beware of skating on thin ice," and advised skaters to keep away from deep water holes.

The word of caution was given as a result of the drowning of a 21-year-old Richmond man yesterday.

"It is quite possible that there will be considerable icy weather in the near future," Chief Garton declared. "Skaters should be extremely cautious about venturing out on the ice."

"By no means should they attempt to skate on ponds whose water level normally is over their heads."

It was pointed out that there are several places in and near the city, such as city parks, where the water is ordinarily shallow and where skating is supervised.

1948 Jan Alexander Martin drowns at  
quarry VA

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