

BAR SWIMMERS FROM QUARRY NEAR LEMONT

Crime and Drownings Spur Move

In a further effort to close the abandoned Lemont quarry, sheriff's police last week requested a meeting with representatives of Collianni & Dire Co., 105 W. Adams st., rubbish removal contractors who, police said, own the site. Meanwhile a 24 hour patrol has been established to keep swimmers out.

Closing of the quarry, about 1¼ miles north of Lemont, is a renewed attempt to end drownings and crimes there. Lt. John R. Johnson of the Bedford Park sheriff's police district said a two year record of assaults, fights, and automobile thefts can be blamed on the use of the quarry as a swimming hole.

Waters Are Dangerous

Fifty-three thefts from automobiles with losses of \$4,780 have been reported since June, 1949, Lt. Johnson said. As many as 11 deputies have been assigned to clear the area on week-ends.

Lt. Johnson said the quarry was dangerous even to good swimmers because of the cold spring fed water, weeds, steep drops in the quarry floor, and submerged rocks. Digging in the quarry, from 3 to 40 feet, was stopped many years ago. The east side is now used as a beach. On the north, south, and west sides the top of the quarry cliffs are about 10 feet above the water line.

To reach the quarry from Lemont rd. swimmers must cross an unguarded stretch of the Gulf Mobile and Ohio railroad right of way, Lt. Johnson said, and are in danger of being struck by fast trains.

Two Youths Drowned

Efforts to end swimming in the quarry followed two recent drownings. **Emmanuel Schmidt, 17, of Brookfield, was drowned June 26** while friends were giving him swimming lessons. **Edward Manning, 15, of 743 W. 50th st., was drowned June 17.** As many as 3,000 swimmers use the quarry at one time, Lt. Johnson said. There are no life guards.

A preliminary plan to prevent future swimming, if acceptable to the owners and the state conservation department, is to dump several thousand gallons of crude oil from nearby refineries into the quarry. No Trespassing signs are ineffective, Lt. Johnson said.

An inquest into Schmidt's death is scheduled for 2 p. m. tomorrow in the Lemont village hall.