

Diver Ends Long Search At 1:42 This Afternoon

The cold waters of the abandoned American Quarry lost their hold on the body of Billy Barnes at 1:42 P. M. today.

The body of the 17-year-old Boyden High School athlete was found by diver R. J. Heilig of China Grove at about 1:35 P. M., and was brought to the surface at 1:42 P. M.

Heilig had been down about 10 minutes, and the remains of young Barnes were found within about 15 feet of the spot where he went down a week ago Thursday.



R. J. HEILIG . . . Found body

The recovery of his body marked the end of one of the grimmest and most determined searches and most morbid spectacles in recent county history. Those who started the search resolved to drain the pool to the last drop if necessary, and they never wavered in their resolve.

A dramatic scene marked the finding of the body.

"They've found him! They've found him!" the muted cry went up from the comparatively small crowd of workers. The divers signaled for the air hose pump and the giant water pumps to be shut down.

The body was found in 35 feet of water. Heilig said that the boy's body was on its back. It apparently was not hooked on anything.

And in an instant all was quiet in the picturesque setting. A funeral like hush fell on everybody present as the divers pulled the body of young Barnes aboard the rubber diving barge and covered it with a heavy canvas. Then diver Heilig was pulled aboard and the barge was towed to land.

The body was placed on a stretcher by Peter Funeral Home attendants, who had stood by since the first day of the search, the divers serving with others as bearers of the stretcher, carrying the body to the ambulance.

The body was found at a depth of about 35 feet. It was in good condition, apparently the extreme cold water at the bottom of the quarry prevented any deterioration of the flesh.

The finding of the body came with dramatic suddenness. The rubber barge was towed to a spot near the place young Barnes went down, after the divers had dinner and rested a bit.

While waiting for dinner the divers all expressed the belief that the body would be found near that spot, and they decided to concentrate there, and keep going over and over the bottom of the quarry in that neighborhood.

Heilig dressed and went down, found the body around 1:35 P. M., and the rest of the body on the barge surfaced the body, with diver Heilig's assistance at 1:42 P. M.

The tempo of the pumping had reached a frenzied climax at noon, just before the body was found. Plans were on foot to secure more six-inch pumps in order to rush the reducing of the depth of the water in the quarry.

Those in charge of directing the rescue work gave the enormous pumping project plenty of credit, as the lowering of the water to around 50 feet in the deepest spot and 30 to 35 feet on the ledge, helped improve the visibility for the divers.

The operation in many ways was most unique. Although no funds were available from official sources for such a recovery operation, funds, food, gasoline, supplies, pumps and hundreds of other articles were loaned or given the working crews.

No one was appointed to direct the search or even to work. All of the workers were volunteers and many of them stayed at the quarry from the day the boy drowned until today, sleeping and eating at the site. They had to go it on their own largely for the first couple of days, but after that more organized assistance was given them.

Another oddity was the large number of deep-sea divers who volunteered their services. Few would normally think that there would be any professional divers in an inland county like Rowan. But before the search was more than two or three days old there were five or six on hand.

The spectators flocking to the quarry threatened at one time to badly hamper the operations. However, police control was set up at the entrances to the quarry, and the local CAP squadron helped keep the other spectators out of the property. At one time, the crowds climbed to upwards of 10,000 to 15,000.

When it seemed likely that diving alone would not be enough to

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N. C. Violence Counts 18 Dead

By UNITED PRESS

Highway accidents, drowning, fire and criminal violence claimed at least 18 lives in North Carolina during the weekend, a United Press survey showed today.

John J. Ayers, 29, of Fancy Gap, Va., was shot to death at the home of Bill Gwyn, his brother-in-law, near Mount Airy. Officers arrested Gwyn and said the slaying grew out of a quarrel over a picnic.

Venton E. Galloway Jr., 20, drowned Sunday afternoon while floating in an inner tube in an unguarded area off Long Beach. Acting Coroner James M. Harper said the drowning was accidental.

Hamilton E. Shipman, 49, of Brevard, died in a Hendersonville hospital after his car collided with another auto five miles north of Hendersonville.

Ronnie Hennant, Negro, 48, of Wilson, died after he fell from a car.

Sarah Bounney, six, of Caroleen, was killed when she ran in front of a car near her home.

Robert Lee Culdeck, 25, and Eugene Benard Seals, 22, both of a Fort Bragg, were killed when their auto overturned near Scotland Neck.

Forest R. Green, 56, of Ellenhoro, was struck and killed by a car near Forest City.

Kenneth Moore, 10, of Lumberton, was killed when a tractor overturned on him.

Carroll Camp, eight, of Hendersonville, was struck and killed by an auto in front of the Mountain Home.

Gladys Currie, Negro, five, died in a Moore County hospital after the car in which she was riding collided with another.

Earl Gammon, 42, of Reidsville, drowned in Rockingham Lake when he tried to swim to shore after his outboard motor caught fire.

Herbert Leo Redick, nine, drowned while swimming with friends in a school pool at Winston-Salem.

Cyrus Leon Brown, 32, of Erwin, drowned in Williams Lake near a Dunn when he went for a swim during a Sunday School picnic outing.

Carl David Hollingsworth, 23, of Salemburg, was killed when the truck he was driving overturned near Greensboro.

Adrian Hubert Baccus, of Hertford was killed when his motorcycle crashed into a car driven by William Day Fairchild Jr. of Shiloh near Elizabeth City. Fairchild was charged with involuntary manslaughter.

William Marvin Fussell, 17, of Kinston was drowned in Newport River after he fell from the Beaufort-morehead City railroad bridge.

Body Of

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recover the body, it was decided to try to drain the quarry. The first step was to blast a drainage ditch in the side of the quarry. This was done and dropped the water level quickly. Finally it was decided to use pumps in an effort to pump it dry. This was under way with a large number of pumps in operation when the body was found.

Heilig Experienced As A Deep-Sea Diver

Heilig, a navy veteran at home in China Grove awaiting a discharge, is an experienced deep-sea diver. He entered the navy a few days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

He long ago lost track of the times he has been down as a deep sea diver. Nor does he remember the number of bodies that he has rescued from deep water.

While stationed at Pensacola his work consisted mainly of searching for naval air craft that had crashed in the Gulf. He also assisted the army bases when they lost planes.