

Efforts by Firemen to Revive Him Are Unsuccessful

Teen Ager Drowns in Quarry While Trying to Learn to Swim



Sixteen-year-old Gilbert Masner, who was drowned while swimming in an abandoned quarry southwest of the city late yesterday afternoon.

An attempt to teach himself to swim with the help of a floating barrel in an abandoned quarry at Springfield's southwest edge ended tragically last night for a husky teen-ager.

The body of Gilbert Masner, 16-year-old Reed Junior High school student, was lifted by fire department grappline hooks from the debris-strewn bottom of a Horton Stone quarry pool at 6:50 p.m., an hour after he sank from sight.

Firemen used their resuscitator until the boy was pronounced dead by Coroner E. Allen Pickens, shortly after 7 p.m.

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PICKENS SET no inquest, but drew this moral from the tragedy: "Don't try to swim in unsupervised pools."

Masner and five other young persons drove to the quarry about 5 p.m. "just to swim and mess around," as one of them put it.

Officers listed the companions as Jackie Breshears, 2035 North National; Bonnie and Buddy Perryman, 13 and 21, of route 9; Shirley Brayfield, 16, Bryon Hammers, 22, 1231 East Mill, and Billy Brayfield, 22.

Masner couldn't swim, but was trying to learn by clinging to an empty barrel he found at the water's edge.

The others, swimming a short distance away, paid little attention as the barrel drifted away from the gravel shore with Masner astride it.

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MASNER WAS dumped into water 20 feet deep when the barrel suddenly rolled with him. His companions found the 50 feet separating them too much to span before Masner went down for the last time.

Two of the boys dove into the dark green water, while another hurried to a nearby oil company to summon help.

The response—two police cars, several sheriff's cars, a patrol car, and a fire truck—attracted a crowd which lined the rim of the quarry and the road circling down to the pool from Sunshine, just east of Scenic.

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GRAPPLINE from the shore and

from a fireman's rowboat yielded a variety of items from a quarry floor before the boy's body was found.

Officers were surprised to learn that the semi-isolated pool, located just north of the Missouri-Pacific railroad overpass on Sunshine, has been a popular summertime swimming spot for youngsters.

It is unmarked and unfenced, although rimmed most of the way by sheer cliffs.

A native of Elkland, Masner had lived here most of his life and was a ninth-grader at Reed Junior High.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zean W. Masner, 1814 North Hampton; two brothers, Zean William, Jr., and William David, both of the home; five sisters, Mrs. Glendon Williams, 500 East Kearney; Carol Louise, Anita Ruth, Roberta Ann and Janice Sue, all of the home.

Other survivors include his grandmothers, Mrs. Ella Darling, 1045 Dale, and Mrs. Nellie Vance, 1814 North Hampton.

Burial will be in Eastlawn under direction of Thieme and Son.

77 Blood Donors At Center Here During Past Week

Seventy-seven persons donated blood at the Springfield regional blood center last week.

Those who donated were: Merl H. Bellairs, 1914 West Elm; Max Brown, 901 North Grant; Robert L. Davis, 2315 Farmer; George F. Gregory, 1815 East Elm; Robert A. Haubeln, Route 4; Mrs. Mary Porter, Rogersville; Mrs. Blanch Reed, 1517 East Walnut; Thomas B. Smith, 710 Seminole Drive; Claud Dickens, 2541 North Campbell; James Ewing, 627 East Monroe; Carroll Henry, 2944 West Lincoln; Georgia F. Hook, Route 7.

Evert L. Jarles, 2147 East Elm; Rev. M. L. Ketchum, 434 West Pacific; John H. Lucas, 1737 West Thoman; Kyle McReynolds, 744 South; Mrs. Nevada Pickering, 628 North La Fontaine; J. W. Sample, 1021 State.

Lewis Scharpf, 1246 East Portland; Wesley H. Seaton, 506 West Madison; John Texas, 727 Cherry; H. D. Crocker, 1146

Areas in City Rat Infested

56 Springfield Areas Surveyed by Officers

Two rodent control officers of federal and state agencies have found varying degrees of rat infestation in the city, Health Commissioner Del Caywood announced today.

Joe Hunt of the U. S. Public Health Service Kansas City regional office and Albert Happy of the Missouri Division of Health in-