



1954 Feb two boys drown at quarry PA

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MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 15, 1954 h★ 17



Mrs. Betty Mitchell holds her newborn son in Crozer Hospital, near Chester, yesterday. It was less than a week ago that the Ridley township mother almost lost her life in a vain attempt to save her 4-year-old son, Michael, from drowning with a playmate after they plunged through ice in an abandoned quarry.

## Mother Gives Birth to Boy 5 Days After Seeing Son Drown in Quarry

The inexorable tide of life and death which last week brought almost inconsolable grief to a Ridley township woman yesterday offered her some surcease from sorrow at Crozer Hospital, Upland, adjoining Chester.

Still bearing bruises on her body and with a gnawing pain in her heart, Mrs. Betty Mitchell, 31, who almost drowned last Tuesday with her young son, brought a bright new life into her world.

A son weighing seven pounds and 14 ounces was born yesterday morning, five days after Mrs. Mitchell's son, Michael, 4, drowned with a companion when they plunged through thin ice covering an abandoned quarry off Bulls lane.

Mrs. Mitchell almost died in the icy water as she and Mrs. Alicia Collins, of 1511 Constitution ave., Overlook Heights, mother of Michael Collins, 4, tried vainly to save their children but themselves had to be rescued.

Physicians said the baby was prematurely born by about three weeks but that the new son, who may be named Robert, was in good health and that the mother was doing well.

At their home at 1509 Constitution ave., her husband, William, also 31, sat with Michael's little sister, Penny, 3. He told her in quiet tones about the miracle that brought her a little brother.

Both Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs.

Collins were treated for exposure and shock after their sons died trying to retrieve a golf ball which had rolled onto the ice.

But both attended together the viewing of their sons' bodies Friday night and they went to the separate funerals Saturday, each with her separate yet identical sorrow.

When Mrs. Mitchell returned from the funeral she cried quietly and hugged her little daughter. Then, a few hours later on Saturday night, the insistent force of life cried out. She was taken to the hospital and gave birth to her son.

"This will give her something to fill the void," said a nurse. "Maybe nothing can really take the place of her other son but this little fellow certainly will try."