

Mitchell Man Is Drowning Victim At Big-4 Quarry

Chester Payton Funeral Planned For Wednesday

Chester Miner Payton, 44, Mitchell, drown Saturday evening in the Big-Four Quarry two miles northeast of Mitchell, and state police recovered his body about 10 a.m. yesterday.

He was one of four drowning victims to be reported in Indiana during the week end.

State police said three men found Joseph Mesarosh, 29, of Route 1 Mitchell, sitting beside the quarry about 6:30 p.m. Saturday. He told them that Payton had undressed, fallen into the quarry and disappeared.

The men were identified as two Indianapolis men — Earl Richason, formerly of Mitchell, 230 South Temple street; Herman Bledsoe, 260 South LaSalle; and Jesse Richason, Route 3 Mitchell.

Henry Johnson Residence In Country Burns

Believe Lightning May Have Caused Blaze In Dwelling

The Mitchell Bureau

Lightning is believed to have been the cause of a blaze that burned to the ground a three-room house belonging to Henry Johnson, 68-year-old barber residing on Route 1 Mitchell about 2 miles southwest of Bedford on U. S. Highway 50.

The home was discovered ablaze about 2 p.m. yesterday by Mrs. Neal, who notified Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their 19-year-old son, Bill. The family was in the residence at the time. A few minutes prior to the discovery of the fire, a bolt of lightning had struck in the neighborhood, causing the electric power to go off.

Save Some Things

Neighbors and motorists passing the burning residence helped save part of the furnishings, which were taken to the home of Rev. Herman Campbell, pastor of the Huron Church of God.

There was no insurance on the dwelling or contents.

It was indicated that the Huron Church of God, the Bryantsville Church of Christ and the Fairview Church of Christ will offer assistance to the family.

Mr. Johnson operated his barber shop in his home.

Judge Acts On 3 Divorce Suits

Contact Police

After looking for Payton and finding his clothes, they contacted Mitchell police, who notified the Jasper State Police Post. State police and a sheriff's deputy arrived at the scene, but were unable to do any dragging because of darkness.

Yesterday morning, a state police boat was taken to the scene, and the body was found about 10 o'clock. A Civil Air Patrol plane had been overhead trying to spot the body from the air.

One of the state troopers, who had been handling the grappling hooks, injured his thumb on one of the barbs and had left the boat to treat the wound.

Handling Hooks

Jesse Richason was handling the hooks when the body was discovered in about 14 feet of water, said Lawrence County Coroner R. E. Wynne. It was reported by Dr. Wynne that some parts of the quarry are about 40 feet deep.

Mesarosh was jailed Saturday evening by authorities and booked for trespass. His arraignment in Mitchell City Court was scheduled for today.

Funeral services for Mr. Payton, who had resided at 1020 West Warren street, will be held at the Haverly Mortuary at 2 p.m. Wednesday with Rev. Otto L. Dunson, pastor of the Mt. Horeb Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow in the Mitchell Cemetery.

The body will lie in state at the mortuary until the hour of burial, and friends may call anytime.

List Survivors

Survivors include the parents

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Mitchell Man

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— Asa and Cordelia Frances Lowe Payton; three brothers — Thomas A. and Joseph Samuel, both of Mitchell, and Benjamin of Indianapolis; two sisters — Mary Winegar of Mitchell and Mrs. Martha Campbell of Cliff, New Mexico.

Having been born in Casey County, Ky., Mr. Payton moved to Mitchell in 1920.

He enlisted in the Army on December 5, 1945, and was discharged April 26, 1948. He had served with the Army of Occupation in Germany following World War II.

Others Drown

In other drowning accidents during the week end, a high wave swept Robert Louis Stephenson, 18, Michigan City, out into the choppy waters of Lake Michigan as he was swimming at Long Beach yesterday.

Calvin Ansbury, 15, Atlanta, disappeared from an innertube on which he was floating during a family outing Sunday at Secrist Lake near North Webster. His body was recovered.

James A. Tomlin, 6, Route 4 Indianapolis, fell into a pond and drowned Sunday on the Jennings County farm of Ralph Kastner, where he and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tomlin, were visiting.

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