

Youth Drowns In Abandoned Rock Quarry

Three Companions Fail In Effort To Rescue Him

Efforts of three young Negro boys to save a companion from water which had collected in the abandoned quarry on the Rogersville road were to no avail Tuesday. The body of 8-year-old Gary Lee Haire, 137 Holley Street, was recovered by members of the Greeneville Emergency and Rescue Squad at 3:10 p. m. Tuesday, one and one-half hours after the tragedy had been reported to them.

Lonnie Gudger, 9, one of the drowned boy's companions, said that he, Gary Lee Haire, Fletcher Gudger, 9, and Terry Moore, 12, had been out berry picking, when three of them heard considerable splashing coming from the water in the quarry. Continuing he said that they investigated and saw Gary in the water.

He said he went out from the bank to help Gary and was able to get hold of his hand. He added that the other two boys handed him a board and were dragging them to the bank when Gary's hand slipped and he went under.

The three boys, after Gary did not come to the surface, walked and ran to Holley Street, where they told Gary's grandmother and the Gudger twins' mother, Aletta Gudger, what had happened.

A neighbor, Mrs. Mark Carson, called the Greeneville Emergency and Rescue Squad.

Sixteen members of the squad, with three boats and other equipment, dragged the bottom of the pond formed in the quarry. The bottom of the pond was formed of large rocks and several hooks were lost during the dragging process. The body of the young boy was found some twenty-five feet from where he is thought to have entered the water. The bottom of the pond in that area grad-