

Warned Not To Make Attempt

*Niles M. Beers
Is Victim*

HIGGINSVILLE—A 16 years old Durhamville boy drowned in an old stone quarry about a mile east of here yesterday afternoon.

Niles M. Beers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer M. Beers, was swimming with three other boys when the mishap occurred. According to State Trooper George Regner, Beers left his friends and started swimming around the edge of the water filled quarry. He was warned not to go off by himself, but insisted on making his way around to the other side of the pond-like quarry.

The youth was wearing a skin diver's mask and flippers and he reportedly started to swim the 100 yards of deep water separating him from his friends. He got about half way across the waters when he started to choke. He made his way further toward shore and then cried that he couldn't make it and needed help.

As he started to go down, Paul Precourt, 17, and Ralph Holmes, 16, went after Beers, but Precourt, the ablest swimmer of the group, had to give up his rescue attempt when Beers panicked and fought him off.

Jack Hiscox, the other boy on the swimming trip, said the boys had warned Beers several times not to go into the deep water, as he was not considered a good swimmer.

The boy drowned about 3 p.m. His body was recovered by three Sylvan Beach skin divers, Dean Money, James Jones, and Ernest Money, about 4:45 p.m., and Coroner Thomas Cox issued a verdict of accidental death due to drowning.

Troopers Regner and Robert Hinds used a boat owned by Paul Kruger in an effort to locate the body with grappling hooks.

The boy reportedly went down only 30 feet from shore, but in at least 20 or more feet of water. The quarry pond, is about 100 yards wide and 500 yards long. It has a steep drop off only a few feet from shore that makes it hazardous to novice swimmers.