

Boy Drowns In Abandoned County Quarry

A 16-year-old boy drowned Wednesday in an attempt to swim across an abandoned quarry with three friends who

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said they had advised him not to try.

The boy was Richard Winegardner of 5862A Maffitt ave. His body was found by skin divers about two hours after he drowned in the 80-foot-deep quarry near Strodtman and Columbia Bottom roads in north St. Louis County.



Winegardner One of his three companions, Douglas C. Gurnayn, 17, of 5914 Ferris ave., told county police he and the others had been swimming with Richard in the city-owned quarry.

He said they decided to swim to the opposite wall, 150 to 200 feet away. But, he said, they advised Richard to stay behind because he was not a good swimmer and tended to tire easily.

The three started across, Douglas told police. They looked back and saw Richard thrashing in the water about 35 feet from the edge.

Douglas said he swam back and grabbed Richard but was pulled under. He managed to get the struggling boy to the surface, he said, but lost him again.

The others joined him in a vain search for the boy. Police called three skin divers, who found the body at about 3:55 p.m.

Richard was one of three children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Winegardner. He was a junior at Beaumont High School.

1959 Aug Richard Winegardner drowns at quarry MO

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LOOKING AT THE QUARRY in which their companion drowned are (left to right) Richard Dodd, 16, of 235 De Smet dr., Florissant; Douglas Curnayn, 17, of 5914 Ferris ave., and John Brown, 18, of 5905 Greer. —Globe-Democrat Photo

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