

Two Young Sisters Drown In Abandoned Stone Quarry Monday

OSGOOD, Ind. UPI — Two young sisters drowned in an abandoned stone quarry Monday while their two older sisters tried to rescue them. None of the four girls could swim.

The victims were Esther Diddle, 13, and her sister, Neva, 11.

Authorities believed Esther slipped on a rocky ledge at the edge of the quarry and grabbed Neva's hand as she fell, pulling the younger girl into the deep water.

Mrs. Betty Martin, Salem, and Joyce Diddle, 16, the older sisters, who were sunbathing a short distance away, ran to the water's edge and tried to save the girls. But neither could swim. By the time Mrs. Martin ran to a store about 500 yards away and returned with help, it was too late.

The bodies were recovered, Esther's in 25 feet of water seven hours after the tragedy.

The girls were the daughters of the Clyde Diddles of Osgood.

Authorities said the younger girls had been warned by their parents to stay away from the quarry.

Ether's twin brother Lester had been fishing in the quarry earlier in the afternoon but left and went home before the drownings.