

Young Boy Drowns In Quarry

PORT CLINTON, O. — Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon in Port Clinton for nine-year-old Danny Lee Mortus of the Oak Harbor area who was drowned Sunday in the quarry at Genoa Veterans Memorial park.

The Rev. John Braun, pastor of the Lutheran church, Port Clinton, will conduct services Wednesday at 2 p.m. from the Gerner and Wolf funeral home. Burial will be in Riverview cemetery.

The drowning was the first of the year in Ottawa county and the first fatality at the Genoa village park.

Twice Warned

Richard Kroetz and Kay Koesler, life guards at the quarry, reported they had twice warned the youngster to stay out of the deep water area which is roped off to non-swimmers. The youngster could not swim.

Danny was in swimming in the quarry Sunday afternoon with his brothers, Charles 14, Frederick 12 and Terry 8, all sons of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mortus of Route 163 between Oak Harbor and Port Clinton.

The family called the youngsters in at 4:30 p.m. because the pool is closed down from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. It was at this time that Danny was discovered missing.

Six members of the Genoa Volunteer Fire Department under leadership of Chief Dan Cashen with the help of 75 people in the park conducted a search of the grounds for the missing youngster.

Began Search

William Sutton, an underwater swimmer from Toledo, and Kroetz, the life guard, began a search of the water. At 6:30 p.m. Sutton discovered the boy's body in 15 feet of water just off the diving board. Resuscitation was not possible.

The body was taken to the Port Clinton funeral home. Dr. C. R. Wood, Ottawa county coroner, gave the verdict of accidental drowning.

Norman Mortus, the father, collapsed and was put to bed under physician's care. This marked the first Sunday Mr. Mortus has not worked for some time. Employed at the Cedar Point Marina, he had taken this Sunday off to take his family swimming.

The youth was a member of the fourth grade class of the Salem-Oak Harbor school.

He is survived by his parent Norman and Betty Chaffin Mortus, his brothers Charles, Frederick and Terry, his maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. William Chaffin and his paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mortus, all of Port Clinton. Mrs. Chaffin is ill and was not told of the drowning.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 7 p.m. tonight.

1960 Jun Danny Mortus drowns at quarry
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