

Little Ferry Boy Drowns

"I saw the top of his head come up once. Then I saw little bubbles come to the top."

This was the way Glenn Galloway, seven, of 226 Washington Avenue, Little Ferry, told police about the drowning of his friend, Eric Errichello, 11, of 26 Hester Street, Little Ferry, at 6 p.m. yesterday.

Eric's body was recovered at 7:30 p.m. from Budd Lake, a pond off Washington Avenue in Little Ferry's industrial zone, formed years ago from a brickyard clay quarry now abandoned.

The Errichello boy, second oldest in a family of seven children, had pushed off into the lake on a raft he made. The Galloway boy, who stayed on shore, told police his friend tumbled into the lake when the

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stick he used for an oar failed to touch the lake's bottom.

Glenn said his friend was trying to push his way back to shore when he toppled into the muddy lake. The Galloway youth ran to a nearby plant, where workers called police.

A skin diver, William Morgan, of Ridgefield Park, found the youth face down in 10 feet of water 20 feet from shore. Morgan was one of 10 divers directed in the rescue operation by Patrolman George Peters, of the Bergen County Police underwater search and recovery unit.

Police said they chase boys off the lake frequently, and break up rafts put together with railroad ties and scrap lumber. "But they keep hiding them in the weeds," one officer said. "Water just entices boys."

The victim's mother, Mrs. Ellen Errichello, said her son often played near the lake despite her warnings. She said all the children play there.

Mrs. Errichello said her son just joined a Cub Pack and was interested in model boat making, but that she knew nothing of the raft he had built. The mother and several neighbors said the lake was a dangerous attraction and should be fenced.

The property is registered in Little Ferry tax rolls under the name of Edward M. and Lillian Young, of Teaneck.

It was the third water death in Little Ferry since January 1, and Eric was the third Bergen County boy to drown in four days. Two three-year-old girls died in a partly filled swimming pool in Little Ferry January 11, and two teen-age boys, one from Hasbrouck Heights and a second from Ridgefield Park, died in the Hudson River off Nyack, N. Y. Sunday.

The Errichello boy is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Errichello, and brothers and sisters Carl, 13; Diane, 10; Frank, nine; Michael, eight; Joan, six, and Claire, one.

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