

Young Divers Fight for Air Supply In Abandoned Quarry; Loser Drowns

WINDTAP, Pa. (UPI) — The dramatic story of two teen-aged skin divers struggling for an oxygen mouthpiece 80 feet beneath the surface of an abandoned quarry was revealed today by police chief Leo Reinhart.

The loser drowned.

The young divers were Thomas Crampton, of Westfield, N.J. and his high school buddy Thomas Kinney of Westfield.

Chief Reinhart said Kinney, the survivor, told the following story: He and Crampton, both 16, entered the water Sunday and descended to 80 feet where Crampton's air supply was exhausted.

Reinhart said that Kinney told him "I gave him my mouthpiece and held my breath. When I couldn't hold it any longer, I signaled to him to return it.

"He shook his head 'no' so I took it," Kinney told the police chief.

Then, the police chief said, Kinney told him that Crampton "went wild and pulled off both our masks."

"I tried to grab him and drag him up, but I couldn't, I started to black out myself. I was full of water myself and had to go up without Tom," Kinney said.

Kinney surfaced and shouted

for help, calling that Crampton was "out of air down there."

He replaced his diving apparatus and searched in the murky waters for Crampton without success.

State police sent out a call for experienced skin divers. Ray Morrow and Peter Schmey, both of Easton, recovered the body of Crampton from the bottom of the 160-foot deep quarry four hours later.

Reinhart said the quarry had been posted with no trespassing signs, but they had been taken down. A road leading into the pit was barricaded, the police chief said.

1961 Aug Thomas Crampton drowns at quarry PA

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