

# 18-Year-Old Youth Drowns In Abandoned Rock Quarry



**SKINDIVER'S PREPARATIONS** — Shown above is Donnie Kabler, 159 Autumn, shortly before he and two other skindivers entered the water at the old Menefee rock quarry northwest of Sedalia in their search for the body of Virgil Lee Taylor, 18, 508 North Washington. Pettis County Sheriff Emmitt Fairfax is holding a flashlight to help Kabler prepare his equipment. Taylor's body was recovered about 7:05 a.m. Saturday, about 11½ hours after he was reported missing.

## Body Recovered Saturday Morning By Skindivers

Virgil Lee Taylor, 18, 508 North Washington, drowned in the abandoned W. J. Menefee Construction Co. rock quarry, about 11 miles northwest of Sedalia, Friday evening. The body was recovered at 7:05 o'clock Saturday morning by Bob Overy, 1505 South Missouri, a skin diver.

Taylor, a Negro, and six other friends had gone to the quarry where his companions went swimming. Taylor, according to members of the party, could not swim and none had seen him go into the water, although a couple said they saw him taking his clothes off.

Although he disappeared about 4 o'clock Friday afternoon, his companions did not make a report to the Sheriff's office until about 7:30 o'clock after they had made a search for him in the area, but did not go in to the water to search.

The youths, questioned by Sheriff Emmett Fairfax and his deputies, gave conflicting stories on what happened. One story was reported that there had been some shooting at the quarry, but no one knew if Taylor had been hit. Another was a fight had occurred between some white and Negro boys, although this was denied by the boys and by three white boys who were picked up by the Sedalia police and questioned by Chief of Police Ralph Hamlin.

Sheriff Fairfax organized a search party which went to the quarry about 9 o'clock Friday night. Complete cooperation between the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department, Sedalia Fire Department, Civil Defense, Highway Patrol, and three civilian skin divers, and two boat owners, soon had a search of the quarry waters underway.

Information a boy had been either shot or drowned soon circulated through Sedalia and almost a parade of curious persons started driving to the quarry. On request of officers, Fred Bennett, Civil Defense Director, was asked to take a portable power plant to the scene and establish some radio contacts on the Citizens Band radio, and establish watchers at various turns along the route from Highway 50 to the quarry, and to try if possible to keep the curious from crowding the area.

Assistant Fire Chief George Smethers of the fire department was asked to loan the two powerful search lights of the department for the search and he rushed them to the scene. Two boats were requested, and Gordon Williams, 2401 Albert Lee, and Bob Mock, 509 Sunset Dr., took their motor boats to the quarry and they were assisted in the boat operations by Bill Merritt, 2502 Albert Lee, Howard Copas, 1018 West Second, Robert England, 506 Sunset Dr., and Bill Gray, 406½ West Fourth.

The three skin divers were Don Baker of Southern Hills, Donnie Kabler, 159 Autumn, and Bob Overy. The three worked covering the entire quarry area under spot lights from one boat and offshore. They ran out of air about 4 a.m. Saturday, and had to give up the underwater search until day break.

While waiting for fresh tanks of air, Overy decided to make a few dives using a snorkel. He made one dive into about 30 feet of water off the bank where the clothes of Taylor were found. At approximately 30 feet off shore

## Five Airliners Have Trouble With Landing

### Have Difficulties In Three Cities In 24-Hour Period

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Five airliners with a total of more than 500 passengers experienced landing difficulties in New York, Los Angeles and San Juan, Puerto Rico, in a 24-hour period ending Saturday afternoon.

In New York, a Pan American DC8 jet from Paris with 136 aboard skidded off a runway at New York International Airport. Earlier, an Eastern Air Lines DC6 with 107 aboard was forced to circle the airport for three hours while crew members loosened a stuck nosewheel.

No injuries were reported in either mishap.

In San Juan, meanwhile, a Pan American jetliner with 174 aboard landed safely after reporting its hydraulic brakes were not working.

And in Los Angeles, two huge jetliners, plagued by landing gear and hydraulic system failures, made dangerous landings at International Airport.

A total of 102 persons aboard the two jets emerged virtually unhurt, airlines officials said.

An American Airlines Boeing 707 jet, with 52 aboard, caught fire and suffered a tire blowout when its front landing gear collapsed as it touched down at International Airport.

Passengers and crewmen clambered out of the jet as smoke poured through the plane, which landed at 12:17 a.m.

The jet, en route from Boston via Chicago, Dallas and San Diego, was gashed under the cockpit, where the landing gear had collapsed. A minor leg cut to a crew member was the only injury, a spokesman said.

Firemen extinguished the blaze in about 20 minutes.

A few hours earlier, a Trans World Airlines jetliner, carrying 50 persons from Los Angeles to Boston, made an emergency landing at International Airport. No one was hurt.

TWA said one of the two hydraulic systems on the plane, a four-jet Convair 440, had lost pressure, preventing the nose gear from descending.

After three hours of circling, crewmen aboard the jet crawled into the belly and dumped about three gallons of water, coffee and milk into the plane's No. 1 hydraulic system. The fluid created enough pressure to get the landing gear down safely at about 7 p.m.

## Liberian Begins Move

### Seek An Emergency Assembly on Tunisia

**UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. (AP)—**Asian and African countries moved Saturday night to bring the Tunisian crisis before an emergency meeting of the General Assembly after the Security Council failed to agree on any new action to bolster last week's cease-fire.

Nathan Barnes, the Liberian delegate, notified the 11-nation council that steps would be taken immediately to seek an emergency meeting of the assembly. A majority of its 99 members must join in the request.

Barnes took the floor in a tense meeting after the council rejected in quick succession each of the three proposals before it. One was sponsored by Turkey and backed by the Western powers. The other two were sponsored by the United Arab Republic, Ceylon and Liberia.

No veto was cast since all the proposals were killed when they failed to receive the seven affirmative votes required. The Turkish proposal fell one short of approval after Turkish delegate Turgut Menemencioğlu withdrew a key paragraph which the Soviet Union had threatened to veto, if necessary. The other two resolutions received only four affirmative votes—those of the sponsors and the Soviet Union.

France did not participate in either the debate or the voting.

Just before the council adjourned, Soviet delegate Platon D. Morozov declared: "Further nonfulfillment by France will bear grave responsibility."

Morozov tried unsuccessfully to have the Turkish resolution amended to place the blame on France for the fact the cease-fire had not been fully carried out. The Soviet amendment was defeated by a vote of 4-0 with six countries abstaining.

The Asian-African resolutions contained declarations blaming France.

The Western powers agreed with the Soviet-backed Asian and African countries that the 11-nation council should call for compliance with the cease-fire, but were deadlocked over the way it should be done.

France continued its boycott of the debate although French Ambassador Armand Berard sat at the table as an observer. The French made it clear that they would use the veto, if necessary.

Moore noted in his statement

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## Oil Council Supports Gas Tax Increase

**JEFFERSON CITY (AP)—**The Missouri Oil Council announced Saturday it will continue full support of the package plan gasoline tax increase it helped to push through the Legislature.

Ralph F. Moore of Kansas City, newly elected chairman of the council, said "It is a superb program and we are proud to continue our support of it with all the resources at our command."

A campaign organization is expected to be set up soon to persuade voters to adopt the plan at a special election next April. The state Chamber of Commerce endorsed the increase Friday.

Under the program the present three-cent a gallon gas tax, lowest in the nation, goes up to five cents Oct. 13. All the revenue will go to the State Highway Department until next spring's special election.

Then the voters will be asked to approve a constitutional amendment allotting three-fourths of one cent of the increase for city streets and one-fourth cent for county roads. If adopted, city gasoline taxes will be abolished—the main interest of the Oil Council. If rejected, the tax drops back to three cents.

**18-Year-Old**

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line. Overy found the body on the bottom of the quarry, lying face up.

Overy surfaced and signaled he had found the body, this was at 7:05 o'clock. He then went down again and in about five minutes surfaced with the body, and started swimming toward the shore where Deputy Sheriff Jack Coutts and others reached for the body and carried it up to the lane on top of the short bluff.

Because of the mystery built up by conflicting stories given the officers, the search was made into an intensive one resulting in a wide search of the area in which Deputy Coutts used his police dog, Cam, in trying to locate a trail in the wooded area. Due to the varied accounts of where Taylor was last seen near the water, the water search was extensive and covered the entire quarry area.

Sgt. E. W. Van Winkle of the Highway Patrol had called for the patrol skin diving team to come to the area Saturday morning to relieve the three tired Sedalians, but when Overy found the body the Patrol was notified and the team was contacted before they reached Sedalia.

Dr. J. M. Rodeman, acting coroner, was notified and went to the scene and viewed the body. Dr. Rodeman announced he would conduct an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. The body was taken to the Alexander Funeral Home.

Dr. J. M. Rodeman, acting coroner, was notified and went to the scene. An autopsy was conducted Saturday afternoon. Dr. Rodeman reported the cause of death would be listed as accidental drowning. He said the autopsy failed to reveal any sign of physical damage; and there was no indication of foul play.

Dr. Rodeman was assisted in the autopsy by Dr. W. R. McPhee, Kansas City, a pathologist.

Sheriff Fairfax reported that due to the findings of the autopsy, a coroner's inquest would not be held.

Sheriff Fairfax said that at least 35 to 40 persons participated in the search and questioning of the youths who had been with Taylor.

Virgil Lee Taylor, son of Charles Norman and Anna Louise Taylor, 508 North Washington, was born in Sedalia July 3, 1943.

He attended the C. C. Hubbard School, graduating in May, 1961.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Anna Louise Taylor, of the home; four brothers, John Wesley Taylor, 418 North Washington; Willie Walker Taylor, Charles Norman Taylor, Jr., and Wilbur Grantual Taylor, all of the home; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Smiley, 432 North Washington; three aunts and five uncles.

Young Taylor's father, Charles Norman Taylor, preceded him in death Sept. 1, 1960.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. The body is at the Alexander Funeral Home.

1961 Jul Virgil Taylor drowns at quarry MO

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