

Youth drowns in quarry pit at Spaulding

Icy waters of an abandoned Spaulding Mines quarry pit Monday claimed their third drowning victim in less than three years.

Adrian Harry, 14, Mason City Negro, had been swimming with six other boys when he went down about noon in the pit just off Green Springs Highway.

When skin divers and rescue equipment arrived at 2 p.m., the only hope was for recovery of the young Negro's body. Rescue attempts by his companions had been unsuccessful.

Ricky Sasnett, Henry Battle and Tommy Stansell, Vestavia Hills junior volunteer firemen, were first to reach the scene with diving gear. They explored the cold depths of the pit until their oxygen gave out.

Then the Jefferson County Volunteer Rescue and Water Recovery Squad arrived with additional divers, a boat and grappling hooks.

Within 25 minutes the body was recovered by diver Tommy Freeman, working with the grappling team.

H. M. Schoenfeldt, training officer of the Rescue Squad, was in charge of the recovery. C. T. Northcutt is president of the volunteer group.

Deputy Sheriff C. R. Reeves handled investigation of the accident.