

Boy Drowns In Rock Quarry

By LARRY DAUGHTREY

A 7-year-old North Nashville boy drowned yesterday afternoon in an abandoned rock quarry which has become a popular neighborhood swimming hole since city pools failed to open for the summer.

David Ricky Roak of 408B Madison St. was dead on arrival at St. Thomas Hospital despite artificial respiration attempts by city policemen.

Mrs. Betty Jo Cook, who lives at the same address, said quite a few youngsters — both white and Negro — have been swimming daily in the quarry since the end of school.

"THERE HAVE been a lot of children down there ever since the city pools closed," she said. "It's a dangerous place when there aren't some adults watching."

The quarry is at the end of 8th Avenue, North. The water drops off sharply from a gravel beach to a depth of 30 or 40 feet.

The city board of park commissioners closed the city's 23 pools last summer for "financial

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Boy Drowns Here

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reasons" after Negroes had tested segregation rules at some of the pools.

Jesse Nance, 15, Negro, who lives at 910 Scovel St., discovered Roak's body while swimming in the quarry about 1:20 p.m. Several other youngsters were swimming at the time.

CITY PATROLMEN Andrew J. Tidwell and Matthew Allen had stopped their patrol car on the road leading to the quarry on a routine check when Nance found the body.

Tidwell administered artificial respiration until an ambulance arrived.

Roak, a student at Buena

Vista School, was the son of Mrs. Lucille Roak and her estranged husband, Norman Roak, address unknown.

Mrs. Roak said the youngster asked to go to Sunday school about 9 a.m. yesterday. He was alone when he left home. She said he could not swim.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Buena Vista Funeral Home.

Survivors include the parents: two sisters, Patricia Ann Roak and Eliza Modina Roak; two brothers, Norman Eugene Roak and Richard Michael Roak; three grandparents, Mrs. Hazel Byrd and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Roak, all of Nashville.

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