

Vacationing Boy Drowns In Quarry

LEBANON, Pa. (UPI) — Ephriam Frank Rivera was one of the hundreds of underprivileged New York City youngsters who anxiously looked forward to a charity-financed vacation in the country each summer.

But Rivera's brief flight from Manhattan's oppressive summer weather ended in tragedy. Today the 14-year-old's limp body probably lies under 60 feet of water in an abandoned quarry where he drowned Thursday despite the valiant efforts of a swimming buddy to save his life.

He cried out for help during a mid-afternoon swim in the quarry, and Donald Schaeffer, a 13-year-old Lebanon boy who had tried to make the short stay in Pennsylvania's farmlands more enjoyable for Rivera, went to the aid of his friend, only to have the body slip from his grasp.

First aid, safety patrol and skindiving teams, hampered by strong winds which churned up the waters, dragged the West Lebanon quarry for more than nine hours without finding a trace of the body. Forced to abandon the search at sunset, they planned to renew it at noon today.

The youth was a participant in the New York Herald-Tribune's Fresh Air Fund program, supported by generous New Yorkers willing to finance vacations for youngsters who would otherwise be trapped in the city's streets.

He was staying with Mr. and Mrs. William Basselgia of (1900 Church St.) Lebanon. Mrs. Basselgia, who lost a brother in the same quarry several years ago, had warned Rivera not to swim there. Rescuers hope to find the body today.

1962 Jul Ephriam Rivera drowns at quarry
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