

Lannon Boy, 12, Drowns in New County Park Swim Area

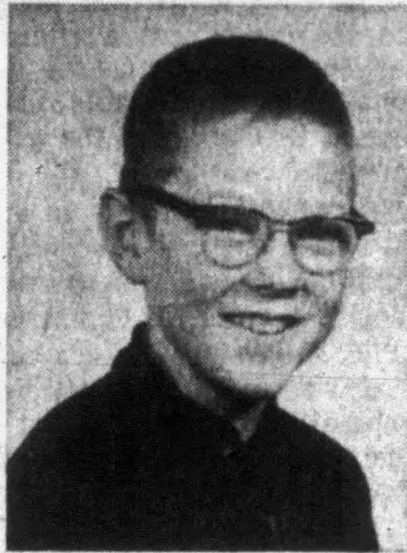
LANNON — A newly opened public swimming area in Menomonee county park claimed its first drowning victim yesterday. He was Michael Van Slett, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Van Slett, 7343 Lannon rd., who live two blocks south of the park.

Michael and a companion, Mark Knoebel, 12, of 7368 Lannon rd., went swimming yesterday afternoon in a public area which had been converted from an abandoned stone quarry. It is located on the west shore of a spring fed lake.

Witnesses reported Michael was using a diving mask to watch fish underwater when the accident occurred.

At 2:45 p.m. Mark told lifeguards William C. Cross III, 19, of 340 Lisbon rd., Oconomowoc, and Larry Mac-Nichol, 18, of 433 Madison st., Waukesha, that his friend was missing in the water. Mark put the time of disappearance at 10 minutes earlier.

One of the lifeguards began diving in search of the Van Slett boy and the other



Michael Van Slett

guard called Menomonee Falls police.

Police launched their rescue boat and began dragging operations. They recovered the body at 3:25 p.m. in 15 to 20 feet of water, 20 feet off shore. A squad of county deputies and the Lannon rescue squad assisted Menomonee Falls police in the dragging operation. Dr. E. C. Van Valin, Sus-

sex, administered artificial respiration and mouth-to-mouth breathing in a futile attempt to revive the boy.

The Waukesha county park-planning commission opened the public swimming area on July 4. Many unauthorized persons had been using the beach, prompting the commission to place it under supervision.

Michael would have been in eighth grade next year at the Lannon grade school.

He is survived by his parents; two sisters, Dianne, 15, and Linda, 11, and a brother, Orville Jr., 10.

Funeral services will be held at Kingdom hall, 14380 W. Hampton av., Menomonee Falls, at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Burial will be in Sunnyside cemetery.

The body will lie in state at the Haack Funeral home, Menomonee Falls, after 7 p.m. today and at Kingdom hall from 11 a.m. tomorrow until time of services.

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