

Lebanon Area Boy Drowns

LEBANON — A 12-year-old Lebanon RD 1 boy was found drowned in an abandoned quarry near his home yesterday.

Chief of Police George Gettler Jr. of South Lebanon Twp. identified the boy as John Walstrum Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Walstrum of Prescott.

Police said the boy had been missing from his home since shortly after 3 p.m. Friday. Police were notified of his absence around 9 a.m. yesterday.

A search party of 60 persons combed the area a half of a mile west of Prescott and three miles east and in the immediate area.

The boy's body was found at 3:30 yesterday by the Myerstown First Aid Unit using a boat and a grappling hook.

The quarry on property known as the Old Weiss Quarry, and is owned by Mrs. Donald Harpel of Lebanon. Water in the quarry has been estimated to be about 15 feet deep in the center. It is situated several hundred feet from the house.

It was learned that the boy and a companion had been fishing in the quarry on Friday. His parents said he could not swim.

Young Walstrum apparently had tried to free his fishing line from a tree at the edge of the quarry and fell in. His body was found with a fishing string around his wrist and part of the string was still attached to the tree.

Dr. E. O. Moehlmann, deputy coroner, attributed death to accidental drowning.

Firemen, Civil Defense personnel, State Police and area police participated in the search.

1965 Jul John Walstrom drowns at quarry
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