

# Greensboro Skin Diver Drowns in Quarry Here

A 21-year-old Greensboro skin diver drowned Sunday about 4 p. m. in the deep waters of the abandoned rock quarry off the south campus of Limestone College.

The body of Tommy R. Durham of 528 Ashland Drive, Greensboro, N. C. was recovered from the water-filled quarry by fellow divers about 4:50 p. m.

A stunned party of skin-divers pieced together the events of the day for city police and sheriff's deputies.

Stuart Archer of Spray, N. C. said he was in the water with the Durham youth when he noticed he was in trouble. He said the warning light was on indicating some equipment difficulty. All men were equipped with rubber diving suits and equipment. Archer said he tried to replace Durham's air mouthpiece but to no avail. He said the mouthpiece to the oxygen tank was swirling in the water when he, Archer, turned to give assistance.

When his efforts to assist Durham proved futile, Archer said he went for assistance.

Clyde Watson of Greensboro dove into the water and attached a rope around the victim. The youth was then pulled to the surface.

Durham's body was down about 160 feet in what the divers called "one of the deep-

est parts of the abandoned quarry." They said the quarry was about 175 to 200 feet deep at its deepest point.

Police said Durham's suit was intact and there was plenty of "air left in his tank when the body was recovered." One member of the party said they arrived in Gaffney about 1 p. m. but did not enter the water until about 4 p. m. He said they took time to look over the area before entering the water. He said it was the first time the group had been to Gaffney.

Members of the Greensboro Dolphin Skin Diving and Scuba Club, the group scouted the quarry to determine the deepest part, the diver said. He said they had heard of the deep water from the Charlotte, N. C. Club. He said the Charlotte group had been in

Gaffney on a previous occasion, he understood.

Archer said Durham was a capable diver and was experienced in deep water.

The quarry was used for several years by Campbell Limestone Company where limestone was extracted from the large crevice. During the operation it was necessary for the company to use pumps to keep water, fed by various springs, from filling in the work area.

The company abandoned the deep quarry in 1954 and thus the quarry slowly filled with water. Even before the quarry had filled to its capacity level one life was lost. A young negro lost his life in the cold waters about one year after the company abandoned operations near Limestone College.

## Local Textiles Provide Biggest County Payroll

Cherokee County's textile industry provided 76.6 per cent of the county's industrial payroll during 1964-65, the S. C. Labor Department discloses in its latest annual report.

Hourly workers in Cherokee's 15 textile plants were paid \$16,084,109 in wages

during the year ended June 30, 1965, the period covered by the report.

Textile plants in the county employed 4,017 non-salarier men and women, 72.7 per cent of the county's industrial labor force.

The state agency's report also shows that textile plants account for 63.1 per cent