

# Boy Drowns In Quarry

Bruce Payne, 14, of Wheeling drowned in an abandoned gravel quarry in Arlington Heights Friday noon, only hours after beginning his summer vacation from Jack London Jr. High School.

He and two 8th-grade schoolmates, Gary Grove and Frank Scharringhausen of Buffalo Grove attended the last half hour of school Friday morning.

Then they headed for the four-acre lake that lies on the far north side of Arlington Heights on land planned for development by James and Gust Stavros.

"We were wading and he (Bruce) was going into shore and then he went down for about 50 seconds," said young Scharringhausen. "And then he came back up and went back down like he had a cramp or something."

SCUBA DIVERS said water in the spot where Payne went under was some 20 feet deep with a sharp drop-off from the silt-laden shallows at the pond's edge.

"He couldn't swim," sobbed Payne's mother, Mrs. James. "He told the other boys he could swim, but his older brother said he couldn't."

Mrs. Fox watched in grim silence as the three boats and Scuba divers searched the water.

Time and time again two of the boats, manned by police from Arlington Heights and surrounding communities, slowly and carefully combed the cluttered and deeply holed bottom of the pond.

"He said he was a real good swimmer," explained Scharringhausen.

WHEN PAYNE sunk from sight the second time Scharringhausen and Grove began yelling for help to two older swimmers sitting nearby.

Ronald Carpenter and Wayne Koepl, both of Palatine, rushed

to the spot where Payne had last been seen, searched fruitlessly, then sped to a nearby farmhouse to call police.

Carpenter and Koepl, college students home for the summer, said they walked all around the pond looking for some trace of Payne, but could see nothing.

The Scuba divers said they swam blind in the murky waters of the pond.

"It's all silt and pieces of car bodies down there," said Rolling Meadows Police Sgt. Charles Poellien, "You can't see your hand in front of your face."

The search continued in the cold water for two hours while onlookers sweltered on the shore of the sun-heated pit.

A sigh of relief went up when the burden on one of the grapnels proved to be a rock.

And then a yell went up, "We've got him."

An ambulance pulled up and the white-wrapped body was wheeled over by weary police and mud-covered divers.

MRS. FOX collapsed into the arms of her husband and went back to the family car.

Richard wept, face in hands, as his brother was borne away.

"He never came here before," said Mrs. Fox, shaking her head. "It was the first time."

And it was the first drowning in the quarry according to Arlington Heights police who were on the scene.

Only last week James Stav-



BRUCE PAYNE

ros, complained to the Herald that the water-filled pit was a danger.

HE EXPLAINED that he had built a fence around the pit and put up a locked gate, but said the young people in the area broke in anyway.

Gust Stavros, owner of the property, posted new warning signs on the property last Thursday.

Police said the water in some of the deeper holes of the lake was 30-35 feet deep.

Stavros said that his latest fence around the pit had been destroyed by someone who hooked a chain on the gate and used an automobile to tear the gate off.

HE SAID the Arlington Heights police have been chasing young people off the property for years.

"I put up signs," he moaned, "I even buy them wholesale. Sometimes they take the signs with them after they knock them down."