

# Former Waymart Boy Drowns at PenArgyl

The body of a former Waymart youth was recovered Saturday from a PenArgyl rock quarry where he drowned early Friday while fishing with his brothers. The recovery came when divers had almost given up hope after several futile attempts.

According to PenArgyl police, Joseph Savage, 17, 607 George St., PenArgyl, was fishing at the abandoned quarry in Weona Park with two brothers, Stephen and James. The brothers, neither of whom can swim, stated that Joseph fell into the abandoned, water-filled crater, which is approximately 250 feet deep, and James grabbed hold of his arm but was unable to keep a grip.

The boys' father, Stephen, a cardiac patient and also unable to swim, heard faint screams from the abandoned pit but by the time he reached it the boy had gone down.

The father summoned police, who in turn called the PenArgyl Fire Co. to the crater. A boat was dispatched and a member of the rescue squad braved the waters to a depth of 20 feet but later said he was unable to see anything.

Diving units from Pennsylvania and New Jersey made at-

tempts late into Friday to recover the boy's body, only to be foiled by overhanging cliffs lining the quarry.

One of the divers to try the dangerous drop stated that he dove more than 220 feet straight down but was forced to turn back when he ran out of air cable.

Finally on Saturday an elaborate diving unit with more than 250 feet of air cable was moved to the scene. Divers then were able to recover the body of the youth.

Born in Waymart, a son of Stephen and Beatrice Hill Savage, he was a former member of St. Mary's Church, Waymart.

Others surviving are a sister, Miss Geannette, at home; a half-sister, Mrs. Louis Rickett, Ogdensburg, N.J.; paternal grandfather, John Savage, Waymart, and maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hill, Stillwater, N.J.

The funeral will be Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. from St. Patrick's Church, Canaan. Interment, parish cemetery. Friends may call at the Oliver R. Shifler Funeral Home, Belmont and South Streets, Waymart, Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. The rosary will be recited Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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