

# Omro Boy One of 3 to Drown Over Weekend

OSHKOSH — A Chicago man and a rural Omro boy drowned in Winnebago County late Sunday, the second and third drownings in the county over the weekend.

Dead are:

**Thomas G. Hoeft**, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hoeft, route 1, Omro, and

Varnell Syler, 56, Chicago.

The Hoeft boy was wading along the edge of a stone quarry at County Trunk E and State 116 when he stepped off a steep drop-off, authorities said.

A 6-year-old companion ran to the home of Martin Piotter, owner of the quarry, about 5:30 p.m. and said the boy had fallen in. Mrs. Piotter called Winnebago County and Omro police. The Omro Volunteer Fire Department dragged for the body and recovered it about 6:15 p.m.

The boy's parents said he could not swim.

Syler drowned while fishing on the bank of the Fox River near downtown Oshkosh. He apparently fell asleep in his chair and fell into the water.

A friend of Syler fishing on the north bank of the river said she heard a splash and noticed him missing from his chair on the south bank about 11 p.m. Syler's friends called Winnebago County police.

The Oshkosh Fire Department recovered Syler's body by dragging about 11:54 p.m. Coroner Art C. Miller ruled that death was due to drowning.

Syler's friends said they had last noticed him in his chair about 9 p.m. Others who fished near Syler said they saw him about the same time and he appeared to be sleeping.

A 37-year-old Chicago man, James W. Miller, drowned Saturday after the light rowboat he was fishing in was swept over the Neenah dam. A companion narrowly escaped drowning.

## Diminishing Gains

# Effectiv

WASHINGTON (AP) — **S**top U. S. officials are beginning to think the air war against North Vietnam is yielding diminishing gains while tightened ground defenses are raising the price in U. S. warpl

Certain of them believe it might be a good idea to make the bombing essential to the supply routes running through the narrow neck of North Vietnam and to cut