

# Salisbury Youth Drowns In Quarry

Salisbury (Special) — A high school student drowned in a quarry near his home while playing hooky with his brother and two friends yesterday.

James B. Johnson, 14, may have become stuck in some mud below a makeshift pier in eight feet of water and panicked, State Police said. He was swimming in an abandoned gravel pit on Rockawalkin road about 2 miles west of Salisbury, police reported.

State Trooper Harold L. Butler said that shortly before 2 P.M. he pulled the youth from under the pier, built with two boards tacked onto rough vertical supports in the muddy water.

## Hunted For Hour

Police surmised that the dead youth panicked and crawled the wrong way, pinning himself under the pier in his frenzy to free himself from the slime.

His older brother, Dwight, and two friends, John Horstman and Herbert Dashields, searched for their companion for more than an hour after he dove from the pier and failed to surface at

12.15 P.M., then called the Salisbury State Police barracks.

The dead youth left his home for the Salisbury Vocational-Technical School with his brother and friends that morning, but yesterday's warm sunshine apparently tempted them to go for a swim at the quarry, about a quarter mile from their house. They never showed up for class.

State Police said the swimmers chose the quarry, located off of Rockawalkin road, rather than a half-dozen more frequently used swimming holes because they feared being caught playing hooky by local authorities who patrol those areas for truant students.

The gravel pit was abandoned 3 years ago when dual sections of Route 50, the Ocean City highway, were completed. There are ten acres of muddy water, 10 feet deep in some places.

In other accidents, a Carroll county youth was seriously injured and a Baltimore county teen-ager died last night of injuries received during the weekend in separate automobile accidents, police reported.

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