

**CHILD DROWNS IN STONE QUARRY AT WILLSHIRE SUNDAY**

**Victim Dies When She Slips From Inflated Tube**

Van Wert County recorded its first drowning of the season about 2:30 p.m. Sunday, when Ann Louise, 10-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lautzenheiser of Rockford RFD 1, lost her life in the waters of the abandoned stone quarry at the east edge of Willshire.

The victim had gone to the quarry with her twin sister, Alice, and an older brother, and had been in the water but a short time when the tragedy occurred.

According to Sheriff W. L. Clay and Deputy Sheriff Virgil Spearman, the girl, who could not swim, was riding on an inflated rubber tire tube when she fell off backwards.

At the time the tube was about 15 feet off the west bank and she was in the water approximately 20 minutes before her body was recovered before her body was recovered in 18 feet of water by Gerald Hurlless of Willshire RFD 1 and Ted Gaze and Robert Meyers, both of Decatur.

Efforts to revive the victim by artificial respiration were futile. Dr. D. F. Russell, acting county coroner, ruled accidental drowning.

The quarry, which has been a popular fishing and swimming place for years, is owned by Edgar Clouse. Several years ago the legislature appropriated \$4,000 of the pool for the state conservation department, but the approval for purchase was rescinded.

The victim, who was born in Mercer County, would have been in the eighth grade at the Willshire School the coming year.

Surviving with the parents, are three sisters, Alice, Beverly Sue, an employe of the National Seal, and Mrs. Roland Wallace of Van Wert; six brothers, Fred, Ralph, Marvin, Ned and Bruce, at home, and Sergeant Gerald Lautzenheiser, stationed with the Army in Japan; the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Lautzenheiser of Monroe, Ind.; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Anna Troutner of Decatur, and the maternal great-grandfather, John Rash of Decatur.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Union EUB Church near Willshire, Rev. Raymond Hughes to officiate. Burial will be in Tricker Cemetery near Salem, Ind., the Zwick Funeral Home in charge.

Friends may call at the family home after 2 p.m. Tuesday.

**Contributed by Karin King**