

Former Local Boy Drowning Victim

Tommy Pancake, 13, of Grabill route 1, was drowned Thursday afternoon when he stepped into a drop-off in the St. Joseph river near Leo while wading with two companions while on a camping trip.

The boy's body was recovered at 4:22 p.m. about one hour and 12 minutes after the tragedy. The boy and his companions, Steve Crick, 15, of Leo, and Barry Wetzel, Grabill route 1, had been wading along the shoreline north of Leo when Pancake stepped into the drop-off of 10 to 15 feet. He could not swim and efforts of his chums to save him were futile.

The drowning victim lived in Mammouth a number of years ago while his father, Vernon E. Pancake, was employed as a pressman at the Decatur Daily Democrat. The father died several months ago after an extended illness.

The boy would have entered the eighth grade at Leo junior high in September. He was active in Little League baseball and was a member of the Sherman Street Church of God in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his mother, Helen; one brother, Richard K., at home; his paternal grandfather, Albert Pancake of Convoy, O., and several aunts and uncles.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Monday at the Sherman Street Church of God, the Rev. A. F. Dreger officiating. Burial will be at Scott, O. Friends may call at the D. O. McComb & Sons funeral home in Fort Wayne after 7 p.m. Saturday.
(Friday, June 14, 1963)

Berne (IN) Library Heritage Room
Adams County Obits 1962-1964, image 22

Transcribed by Janice Vasilovski