

City man believed drowned

By DALE KASLER
Darkness forced authorities last night to call off the search for a Syracuse fisherman believed drowned in Oneida Lake off Frenchman Island.

The search, involving divers from two counties and the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department's helicopter, was to resume at 8 a.m. today for the body of William Sinclair, 23, of 301 Ashdale Ave. in Syracuse.

Sinclair disappeared at about 1:30 p.m. after he went swimming with three friends, state police in North Syracuse said.

The friends told troopers Sinclair had worked all night Friday prior to going fishing yesterday morning.

The four men went out at about 9 a.m., troopers said. At about 1:30 p.m., with their boat one mile northwest of Frenchman Island, they decided to take a swim, troopers said.

When the three got back to the boat about five minutes later, they discovered Sinclair was missing, according to troopers.

The three companions were identified as Russell Deckert of 5267 Abbe Drive, Anthony Scott of Herbst Avenue and Michael Herron of 515 Sedgwick Drive, all in Syracuse. Their ages weren't available.

The search, which was called off for the night shortly before 9 p.m., involved about 35 divers from 11 rescue companies in Onondaga and

Oswego counties. A partial list included Sandy Creek, Hastings, Phoenix, West Monroe, Brewerton and Bridgeport.

The divers were coordinated by Eli Bickom of South Bay Fire Department. The overall search was led by South Bay Fire Chief Charles Hawks, according to department secretary Ray Sorenson.

The state police investigation was conducted by Investigator R.D. Warner, Sgt. K.J. Kotwas and Trooper K.T. Cotte.

"We have a general idea of where he might have gone down, just west of Frenchman Island," Hawks said. The area has been cordoned off with buoys, the chief said.



IT'S ALL IN FUN. North Syracusean Stacey Town, left, may be too young for "real" makeup but willingly holds still for a bit of face-painting by Judy Litto of Clownworks, Inc. Litto's group was one of

many that displayed varying art forms yesterday in Columbus Circle during the annual Arts and Craft Festival, sponsored by the Downtown Committee of Syracuse.

Hancock firm cited Higher court backs Duell

By JEFF REA
A Syracuse attorney has won another round in his legal battle against one of the city's oldest and largest law firms.

A state appellate court yesterday published a decision that unanimously upholds a lower court ruling in favor of attorney Robert L. Duell.

Duell, a former partner in Hancock, Estabrook, Ryan, Shove & Hust, started legal actions after the firm's managing partners tried to institute a new partnership agreement last year.

The attorney claimed that since he and one other partner refused to sign the agreement, it was not binding on the partnership.

Agreed with Duell
The state Supreme Court Appellate Division, a five-judge, Rochester-based court, agreed with Duell and a lower court judge that the document had to be signed by all the partners to be binding on all of them.

Under state Partnership Law, the appellate court ruled, an agreement that "substantially alters" the relationships among partners requires the consent of all if it is to be binding on all.

The court, however, said the agreement may be binding on the 32

partners of the Hancock firm who did sign the document.

Sources told The Herald-American in April that the issue in Duell's legal actions is "how the pie is split, basically."

Compensation units
One table attached to the new agreement shows Duell's "compensation units" — crucial items in figuring each partner's share of the firm's net earnings — would have been less than those of a number of partners with less seniority.

Additionally, Duell claimed that under an old, mostly unwritten partnership agreement, all partners had to approve before any new partners were admitted.

Defendants in the suit — the 32 partners who signed the new document — counterclaimed that rank-and-file partners never had a say in the admission of new partners. That decision was up to a management committee, with other partners limited to offering advisory opinions, the defendants contended.

Fact alters agreement
The Appellate Division ruled that under either argument — Duell's or the defendants' — the new pact would "substantially alter" the way in which new partners are selected.

The new agreement called for the admission of new partners on the recommendation of an executive committee, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the partners.

Duell has started a second action that asks the courts to dissolve the Hancock partnership. The attorney reportedly wants an accounting of the firm's financial affairs, in order to arrive at an equitable distribution of its earnings.

Newest Cuban emigres get warm welcome

By PENNY SORI
"I feel good to be here," said 10-year-old Erix Vergara-Gonzales beaming. "I like to be a good friend to people here and study hard and grow to be a good man." However, he added later, "I hear too much about snow."

Erix arrived last night at Syracuse's Hancock Airport with his family — his parents Erix, 32, Isora, 30, and 7-year-old Hamberto — the most recent Cuban emigres to begin building new lives in the city.

Greeting them were Alberto and Luisa Gonzales, Cuban emigres from 1969 who will act as "host family," and representatives of Fayetteville Methodist Church, the Cubans' official sponsors.

The group just had come from the apartment in the Valley Section rented for the family and furnished yesterday with contributions from church members. A part-time job taking care of the grounds awaits Vergara-Gonzales, a former elementary school teacher in Havana.

"Young people don't have any future in Cuba," he said in explaining their departure. "They are under constant pressure, cannot improve themselves or choose their own careers."

Last summer at this time, they were waiting to join his brother on a small boat bound for Miami. He remembers the police dogs guarding the Mariel Bay compound, into which his family was forced, and the way soldiers would drop off hunks of food, blowing whistles for them to eat. "Sometimes we got something, sometimes nothing," he

said. They felt they were surrounded by criminals.

Hamberto became so ill, his father said, he begged police to send for a doctor or to let them go back home.

With room and food for 16 on the boat, the trip to Miami became a nightmare when 42 people crowded aboard, he recalled. But their stay in Miami was not much better. Violence, fear, lack of housing and jobs prompted him to contact the Church World Service and seek a better life in the North. His father, who made the trip from Cuba with them, remained in Miami.

"I'm willing to do any job," he said, displaying his calloused hands. "I realize I must work hard." His wife, Isora, was a beautician in Havana, and he has worked as a construction worker, plumber, commercial artist, electrician and house painter also.

The Gonzales family of Minoa hopes to make the new arrivals' adjustment easier by sharing their own experiences with them.

Alberto, an electrical engineer for Carrier Corp., and Luisa, a Spanish teacher at Christian Brothers Academy, have two children the same ages as the Vergara-Gonzales boys and one older teen-ager. Gonzales said they will teach the family to shop and use credit wisely and, finally, to subsist on their own.

Wintertime and the language probably will be their most difficult adjustments, said Luisa Gonzales.

"This is the most wonderful country in the world," Gonzales added. "Full of freedom and opportunity."

While Vergara-Gonzales can read

and understand English, he cannot speak it as son Erix does, so tutors are being sought for the family.

"We're involved in social concerns," explained Pat Church, refugee committee chairman. "We felt (the sponsorship) was a good use of

our time and money." She estimated expenses for bringing the family here at \$1,000. "But, you never know," she added.

Nona Stewart, CWS sponsor developer for refugees, said the Vergara-Gonzales family is the first Cuban family sponsored by the organization. "Smaller groups work well," she said. "That's the ideal way — not so much that the people are isolated, but so the community can absorb them, enjoy them, learn and benefit from them."



Herald American photo by Dick Bandy

Alberto and Luisa Gonzales of Minoa, left, greet the Vergara-Gonzales family — Erix, Hamberto, and their parents, Isora and Erix — as they arrive last night at Hancock Airport to begin a new life in Syracuse. The Gonzaleses, no relations, will act as host family to the Cuban emigres, who are sponsored by the Fayetteville Methodist Church.

FIVE HURT IN CRASH

Five people, including three Syracuse residents, were injured seriously yesterday in a one-car accident on Route 57 about one mile south of the village of Phoenix.

Oswego County Sheriff's deputies last night said officials still were trying to piece together the circumstances of the accident but were being hampered by language problems since the injured apparently spoke no English.

Authorities said all five received severe head and body injuries in the accident that occurred shortly before 4 p.m.

One of the injured, identified as Hai Ngoc Phan, 31, of 513 N. State St., was reported in critical condition early today in St. Joseph's Hospital.

Two other residents of the North State Street address also were injured. Quyen Truong was listed in fair condition early today in State University Hospital while Cuong Truong, 20, was reported in fair condition in Crouse-Ingber Memorial Hospital.

Deputies said others injured in the crash listed Massachusetts addresses. Chana Ky, 22, was reported in fair condition in St. Joseph's Hospital while Kai Ky Muiken was reported in serious condition in State University Hospital, officials noted.

Gillette-Brown murder lore burns bright 75 years later

"UTICA — A special to the Observer says parties are searching Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks for Carl Graham of Albany and Miss Grace Brown of Otselic, N.Y. They went rowing out in a rowboat yesterday morning and have not been seen since. At noon today their boat was found upside down near Camp Craig in South Bay in the same lake." — Syracuse Herald, July 12, 1906.

That paragraph may be the first one written about what could have been the most infamous boat ride ever taken in New York state. There have been millions more written since.

As Thursday night Herald subscribers in Syracuse were reading it, a group of solemn lake men had just gotten Grace Brown's body off the sandy bottom of Big Moose. They looked for the man who had gone in the St. Lawrence skiff with her — he signed the register at the Hotel Glenmore "Carl Graham," but his real name was Chester Gillette; after a while they gave up.

As Herald readers learned the next night, "the belief is prevalent that Miss Brown met

Dick Case



with foul play." The body carried a nasty wound across the left eye and the only souvenirs of the boat ride the searchers could find were the man's straw hat with the lining torn out, a magazine and Miss Brown's silk coat.

Electrocuted for crime
The stranger had taken a suitcase in the boat with him and both "Carl Graham" and his luggage were missing.

That was 75 years ago today.

Two days later, Chester Gillette was arrested at the Arrowhead Hotel near Inlet and charged with the murder of Grace Brown. Later that year, in November and December, he was tried for murder in the red courthouse with a church steeple at the county seat in Herkimer. The jury found him guilty.

More than a year after that, March 30, 1908, Chester was executed in the electric chair at Auburn Prison. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Soule Cemetery and the real part of the case died.

That was about the only thing that did. Even after 75 years, the spark of fascination that made Gillette-Brown a sensational news event at the turn of the century still is with us.

If it wasn't, it wouldn't make much sense to note such a grim anniversary.

Classic romance
Some people think history never dies. If they are right, this story of a rather conventional murder — boy meets girl, boy seduces girl, girl gets pregnant and wants to get married, boy has other ideas and kills her — is a nearly mint example of the fact the passing of years sometimes enhances the original event.

Why? Part of it might be the romance of the story itself: Grace Brown was a 20-year-old farmer's daughter from South Otselic who had gone to work in the Gillette Skirt Co. in Cort-

land. There she met Chester Gillette, the owner's nephew who was three years older and much wiser. His parents were Salvation Army workers and he'd lived all over the country. He spent two years in prep school in Ohio and just before Cortland worked as a railroad brakeman out of Chicago.

Chester was a factory foreman and a poor relation who was paid only \$10 a week. He courted Grace and won her but he also was friendly with young women from the "normal school." Before he died at Auburn he admitted his big failing was that he liked girls too much.

Basis for 'American Tragedy'
The story is so rich in detail, 75 years later, that it almost seems a shame to skim them but for the moment, it's enough to say Grace got pregnant and Chester finally agreed to "go away" with her. Just why was a matter of dispute in the case. The short end of it was that they took a weekend in the Adirondacks from which Grace never returned. The People, and

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