

[Smith, Lynn B.]

Ft. Plain Area Man Victim of Drowning in Starkville Area

Lynn Smith, 43, of Fort Plain R.D. 5, was accidentally drowned shortly after 3 yesterday afternoon in a small creek near Starkville, Herkimer County.

Smith, alone at the time, was collecting minnows for bait when he evidently suffered a spell and fell into a foot and a half of water. The victim had been subject to these spells since he suffered a head injury in an auto accident 16 years ago.

Herkimer County Coroner C.C. Whittemore, who was at the scene, rendered a verdict of accidental death due to drowning.

The drowning occurred in a small creek between the farms of Ralph Jordan and Carl Blenco in the Town of Stark, about five miles southwest of the village of Fort Plain. Eugene Smith, the victim's father, became worried when his son failed to return. A search was instituted and the body of the victim was discovered about 3:45 p.m.

Trooper R.J. Gildersleeve for the Herkimer station and the Fort Plain Fire Department were called to the scene. Chief Carlton Swartz and members of the department worked for more than an hour in an effort to revive Smith.

Also at the scene were Montgomery County Sheriff Ralph W. MacLachlan [McLaughlin?] and State Police from the Fonda station.

Smith was born in the Town of Stark on Nov. 26, 1912, the son of Eugene and Muriel Bowman Smith.

He was a member of the Fort Plain Masonic Lodge and was employed at the Howard Miller garage in Van Hornesville.

Besides his parents, he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Robert Bradley, Sprout Brook, and Mrs. Francis Lawrence, Starkville, two nephews and a niece.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 at the Gray funeral home in Fort Plain with the Rev. James Alcock, pastor of the Church of the Messiah [Universalist] at Fort Plain, officiating. Burial will be in Springfield Center Cemetery.

Tuesday evening at 8, a Masonic service will be held at the funeral home.

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