

Thursday night the drowning scene had attracted hundreds of spectators.

Spotlights from West Pensacola and Brent Fire departments went to the scene and trained on the approximate spot that Trawick went down.

Sheriff Bill Davis said the man-made lake was as deep as 25 feet in spots and visibility was extremely difficult for his Escambia County Search and Rescue Squad.

Davis said about 16 skin-divers were probing the waters at press time Thursday night, under the direction of E. E. McGovern and Joe Kingry.

In the other drowning, police said young Walker drowned after he and five other companions had played "hookey" from school and gone swimming.

One of his friends, Troy Jernigan, 14, narrowly escaped drowning himself as he tried to save Walker, according to Patrolman Tommy Suarez.

Police gave this story:

Walker and his five companions were all swimming at the foot of A Street about 1:45 p.m.

Suddenly, police said, Walker went down in what police described as a "deep spot" near shore.

He came up once and then went back down again and didn't come up," said Suarez.

Troy, struggling hard to get his friend to the surface, almost drowned and was forced to abandon his efforts, police said.

About 25 minutes later police said the body was located in approximately the same location it went down.

Artificial respiration was applied to no avail.

The boy was pronounced dead on arrival at Escambia General Hospital. The body was removed to Benboe Funeral Home. Patrolman E. O. Castro assisted in the investigation.