

Inerarity Point Hunt Continues For Missing Boy

The search for an 18-year-old boy who slipped from his water skis and apparently drowned Sunday afternoon at Inerarity Point continued today despite heavy rains and winds.

E. E. McGovern, head of the Escambia County Search and Rescue Unit, said the body of William Arnold Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Zennas D. Cooper, 4716 W. Gregory St., had not been found.

Several boats with drag hooks searched throughout the night without results, McGovern said.

He said the boats were called in between 5-6 a.m., so that the water could clear up. Helicopters from Sherman Field then took over but a small squall forced them down, McGovern said.

Several boats were then dispatched back into water, just off Gulf Beach, and will continue the search, according to McGovern.

Cooper reportedly slipped from his water skis as he was being towed by a runabout skiff a short distance from shore.

An unidentified girl in the skiff attempted to rescue the youth, who was skiing for the first time, but narrowly escaped drowning as she struggled with the victim in the swift current.

Cooper had spent the day visiting the family of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Remich on Gulf Beach Highway, according to reports.

The youth was a June graduate of Escambia High School.