

Navy Chief's Body Found

The body of a man missing since early Saturday was recovered at midmorning today from the waters of Cotton Lake in northern Escambia County.

The body of Robert Flowers, 37-year-old Navy chief stationed at Ellyson Field, was taken to the Naval Air Station hospital.

Flowers had been reported missing at 4 a.m. Saturday after fishermen found his empty boat at the lake north of Molino near Pine Barren.

At the time it was theorized Flowers had been thrown from the craft when it hit a submerged log.

Sheriff's officers said the body was found submerged under stumps at 9 a.m. and was removed by divers a short time later.

Divers from the Escambia Search and Rescue Unit had been working in the lake since Saturday morning in an effort to find the body but had reported that their efforts had been hampered by many submerged logs and stumps.

E. E. McGovern, Escambia Search and Rescue Unit director, said earlier this morning that searchers planned to resort to dynamite blasting in order that the body might be located from under the stumps. However, this was not necessary, deputies said.

Flowers is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Flowers, and two daughters, Margaret Jean and Kathryn Ellen.

The family home is at 6236 San Monica Rd., Belvedere Park.

2 Children Are Victims In Drowning

A young brother and sister drowned yesterday afternoon at the mouth of Davenport Bayou near the Star Lake area in Warrington.

Dennis Griggs, 10, and Barbara Ann Griggs, 8, children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griggs of Pleasant Grove, died in the tragedy.

According to County Road Patrolman L. J. Ingram, Mrs. Griggs and her son and daughter were visiting at the home of W. M. Wright, 424½ Big Bayou Dd., yesterday afternoon. The children started playing in the nearby water of Davenport Bayou.

Other children were playing in the water, Ingram said, and Dennis and Barbara waded out. The two got about 100 yards and then apparently dropped into a 25-foot-channel at the mouth of the bayou.

The road patrolman said it was not certain whether there were any witnesses when the children actually went down.

But the girl was suddenly seen in shallow water near the channel. Rescuers believe she may have managed to come to the surface and was washed away from the channel by the tide. She was pulled from the water shortly after 5 p.m. Sunday. Artificial respiration and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation efforts began immediately when she was taken from the water. Barbara Ann was taken to Naval Hospital and pronounced dead at 5:54 p.m.

Members of the Escambia Search and Rescue Squad, county patrolmen, a Navy helicopter and volunteers continued to search for her brother. He was found by skindivers at the bottom of the channel at about 7:30 p.m. and pronounced dead at 7:42 p.m.

The children's father, a Navy commissaryman 1/C is stationed at the Norfolk, Va., NAS.

Chief Feared Drowned

Brother and Sister Perish in Bayou

A Sunday afternoon visit turned into tragedy when a 10-year-old boy and his younger sister drowned in Star Lake area at Warrington.

Dead are Dennis Griggs, 10, and Barbara Ann Griggs, 8, children of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griggs of Pleasant Grove. Their father is a Navy commissaryman 1/C and currently stationed at NAS at Norfolk, Va.

A third person is missing and presumed drowned in Cotton Lake 40 miles north of here. He was identified as Robert Flowers, 37,

senior medical chief at Ellyson Field.

County Road Patrolman L. J. Ingram gave this account of the double tragedy:

Mrs. Griggs and her two children visited friends at the home of W. M. Wright, 424½ Big Bayou Rd.

The children walked to Davenport Bayou nearby and started playing in the water.

There were other children swimming and playing, he said, and young Dennis and his sister waded out.

The two got about 100 yards from shore, he said, and then apparently dropped into a 25-foot channel.

"I don't even know if there were any witnesses . . . there were quite a few kids playing and hollering when it happened . . ." said Ingram.

The girl was suddenly spotted in shallow water right near the channel. It is believed she may have managed to surface and was washed away from the channel by the tide, Ingram said.

Artificial respiration and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation efforts were made to revive her on the beach. Meanwhile the Escambia Search and Rescue Squad was summoned and a hunt began for her brother.

Barbara was pronounced dead at Naval Hospital at 5:54 p.m.

Her brother was located by skin divers at the bottom of the channel about 7:30 p.m. He was pronounced dead at 7:42 p.m.

In the other incident, Flowers

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More Than 500

Motorists Set Record For Deaths

By United Press International

The nation's motorists hung up a grim new death record for a four-day Memorial Day weekend and threatened to wipe out the previous high for auto crash fatalities for any warm weather holiday.

As of 12:30 a.m., EDT, Monday, at least 501 persons had been killed in the four-day period.

The National Safety Council feared that the current death rate of almost five persons an hour could lift the final count to a new high for any warm weather four-day holiday period. The record is 509 deaths during the 1961 Fourth of July holiday.

The traffic toll took a spurt in

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Brother, Sister Drown in Bayou

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apparently fell from his boat sometime early Saturday morning as he was going to inspect some fishing lines he had put up earlier, according to Escambia search director E. E. McGovern.

He had left a boat landing where his wife and children were about 9 p.m. Friday. The boat was found about 4 a.m. in the bushes bordering the lake.

It is theorized the boat, which was found upright, hit a stump and hurled Flowers from it.

The Escambia Rescue Squad, McGovern said, was called out early Saturday morning. An underwater search took place Saturday and Sunday but was hampered by heavy clusters of underwater stumps. The hunt, said McGovern, will resume Monday morning.