

Second Brother's Body Recovered after Oneida Lake Search

By LETTA TAYLER
BRIDGEPORT — The body of a prominent Syracuse gymnastics coach was pulled from Oneida Lake Sunday, eight days after the man and his brother set off for a fishing trip in the choppy waters and never came back.

Police retrieved the body of Frederick J. "Pinky" Stone, 36, operator of the Central New York Gymnastics Center in DeWitt, about 3 p.m. after it was spotted off the coast of Lewis Point by a friend of the victim who had joined police in the search.

The body of Frederick Stone's brother, Gary, whose 36th birthday was Aug. 14, was recovered Friday about six miles to the west in waters off the southern shores of Oneida Lake.

"At this point, we're still considering the deaths of both men as apparent drown-

ings," said Sgt. Robert Marquart, the state police spokesman in Oneida. "There's no suspicion of foul play."

Marquart said the bodies of both victims have been positively identified by relatives and were brought to the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office. Marquart said he did not yet have the autopsy reports.

Thomas Jensen, a case researcher at the Medical Examiner's office, said it was the office's policy not to comment on matters such as whether the autopsies have been completed.

The news that both bodies were recovered was met with grief among the victims' numerous friends.

"I guess we were all kind of clinging to the hopes that they'd be found alive," said Don Aldrich of Hannibal, a close friend of both victims and a former coach at Central New York Gymnastics.

"It's a real blow to the students as well as the friends and family," added Aldrich. "There's no way Pinky can be replaced, either as a gymnastics coach or as a person. He was one of the greatest people I ever knew, and I can say the same for his brother."

In addition to running the gymnastics center, Frederick Stone served for several years as the Central Region gymnastics team coach at the Empire State Games. Many of his students have received medals in national and regional competitions and even the Olympic tryouts.

Frederick Stone "had a love of teaching that made his kids go further in gymnastics than they might have with any other teacher," said Joanne Rittell, another friend. "You just can't say enough about how special he was."

Rittell said Frederick Stone took time to

teach gymnastics to her 11-year-old daughter, Jennifer, even though she needed special training because she has muscular dystrophy.

Friends said Frederick Stone, who lived at 111 Valentine Drive in North Syracuse with his wife, Marie, also gave special lessons to a blind boy who was among about 200 students currently enrolled at the Central New York Gymnastics center.

Gary Stone, who friends said worked sometimes as a mechanic and had cerebral palsy, was a resident of Fabius. He had been married only three weeks to his second wife, Jodi Nocewicz, when he and his brother disappeared.

The gymnastics center was closed all last week as police searched every day for the missing men. Friends said they had not received word by Sunday night on whether the center would reopen as planned Monday afternoon.

Police had been hunting for the two men since Aug. 14, a day after the brothers said they were leaving for a fishing trip and drove to the South Shore Boat Launch in Bridgeport.

The men's van and boat trailer were found abandoned at the boat launch Aug. 14 by Marie Stone, who searched for the brothers after they failed to return. Frederick Stone's fiberglass boat was found capsized later the same day in the Messenger's Bay area.

Investigators have said strong easterly winds the night of Aug. 13 created four-to-five-foot-high waves that may have caused the shallow, 15-foot-long boat to capsize.

State police used a fixed-wing airplane and two boats to search for the men in a roughly 12-mile area of the Lake from Bridgeport to Messenger's Bay.

On a Wing, Prayer and Flatbed



A plane that was bound for Cicero's Michael Field on Sept. 14, when it crash-landed on Rogue's Roost Golf Course and Country Club, near Bridgeport, nears the completion of that journey Sunday morning, strapped to a truck trailer moving along Route 31 in Cicero. Daniel Zaborney of 1004 Park St., Syracuse, suffered a scraped leg in the crash landing, while a passenger, Jack Kowalski of Baldwinsville, was uninjured. The flight originated at a private airport in Durhamville.

DOT Says No To Sullivan Hill Safety Requests

By LETTA TAYLER
CHITTENANGO — The state Department of Transportation has turned down requests by 50 Sullivan Hill residents to lower the speed limit and put up warning signs on Sullivan Hill, the site of more than three dozen car accidents in the last 13 years.

Several residents said Sunday they will protest the DOT's decision. They noted that, since late May, five more accidents have occurred on the hill just east of Chittenango.

One of those accidents, on Aug. 13, killed 61-year-old Virginia Bumpus of Canastota and injured three others.

"We're talking about more than one accident a month this summer on that hill and the state says there's no problem," said Sullivan Hill resident Frank Rodriguez. "We're playing with lives here. We're not going to give up until we get those safety measures."

Rodriguez said, that if the DOT regional office in Utica does not change its mind and put up signs and lower the speed limit, he and other residents will take the issue to the department's headquarters in Albany.

it didn't see any need for the safety measures.

A study compiled by the department showed that, apart from car-deer accidents, "the accident rate (on Sullivan Hill) is half the state average," said the letter from DOT Regional Director Philip Barnes. The letter did not list the statewide average or Sullivan Hill accident rates.

The study also shows "that the existing 55 mile-per-hour statewide (speed) limit is proper and realistic for this area. The state police concurs with this determination," the letter said.

Reached earlier this week, Barnes said he is sympathetic to residents' concerns about the hill.

"I understand it's a difficult situation for him because of the accident involving his children," Barnes said of Rodriguez. "But we did a very thorough study there and we really didn't find anything of consequence."

Several Sullivan Hill residents said they beg to differ.

"It's a dangerous area. There are accidents all the time," said Lawrence Hoffman, whose wife's vehicle was hit by a drunken driver last year as she was driving on Sullivan Hill.

"What would it take for the DOT to lower the speed limit and put up some signs?" Hoffman added. "We certainly pay enough highway taxes and yet the DOT isn't even listening to people's concerns."

"I just don't understand it. I really don't. Everybody living here wants safety measures for the hill," agreed Diane Keville, who owns a monument shop on the western foot of Sullivan Hill. Keville said that, over the years, several cars have lost control near her shop and crashed into the monuments displayed on her lawn.

A restaurant called the Wilderness Lodge is scheduled to open at the summit of the hill in the coming months, and "then the traffic hazard is going to be even worse," Keville said.

a.m. Monday

Orwell Man Injured As Car, Train Collide

PULASKI — An Orwell man suffered a minor head cut when he drove his vehicle into the side of a Conrail freight train Saturday night, state police in Pulaski said.

Herbert W. Manwaring, 41, was driving east on Canning Factory Road when he drove into the side of the 135th car of a passing freight train, police said. Police said Manwaring told him he did not see the train until it was too late.

Cortland State Hosts 'Environment 2000'

CORTLAND — State University College here will play host Wednesday to "Environment 2000," a conference aimed at addressing the major environmental issues of the next century.

Chittenango School District Finds Earliest Grades Bursting at Seams

By LETTA TAYLER
CHITTENANGO — The Chittenango School District, flooded by increased enrollment in the kindergarten and first grade, has formed a citizens committee to determine how to fit the expanding student body into existing school facilities.

"Enrollment is going up, and it looks like the trend may continue," said Chittenango Board of Education trustee David Hatch. "So we want to see how we can reconfigure our use of school buildings to fit all the new students in."

Over the past few years, enrollment has grown steadily in the district to peak at more than 2,600 students this year, school officials say. That compares to an enrollment of about 2,540 in 1985-86.

And most of the expansion comes from children entering their first or second year of school. The district created a new kindergarten and a new first-grade class this year because enrollment at those

two levels increased by more than 50 students, according to Director of Pupil Personnel Ralph Penner.

Part of this year's increase is the result of the closure of the St. Mary's parochial school campus in Minoa, district officials say. St. Mary's has merged with St. Matthew's, which is in Syracuse.

"A lot of parents were willing to send their children to Minoa but not as far as Syracuse, and so we're getting about 21 more students at the district as a result of that merger," Hatch said.

But the main reason for the increase appears to be the population growth in the Sullivan and Chittenango area, which is experiencing a boom in housing for commuters who work in Syracuse. Many of the commuters are couples with young children who are now enrolled in the Chittenango School District, school officials say.

A state Education Department study predicts population growth

statewide will peak around 1990, Hatch said. "But if homes continue to be built at the current rate in the Chittenango area, say 40 to 60 to 80 new homes a year, our district's enrollment may continue to increase into the next decade," he added.

For now, district officials are not planning to build new facilities to cope with higher enrollment. Any new buildings would most likely require an increase in school district taxes.

"The idea is for the committee to work with school officials to come up with the best ways to use existing facilities, rather than build new ones, at least in the near future," Penner said.

For instance, the committee may consider possible uses for two offices in the Station School that are currently being rented out, Penner said.

The 10-member committee will also re-examine bus routes.

Fire Coordinator's Order Leaves County Auction All Wet

SATURDAY MORNING, a brand new car whipped into the parking lot behind the huge warehouse on East Mollay Road. The tires sent up little rooster tails of water that had just fallen out of the black sky.

The car splashed between rows of parked cars on one side and the rows of bicycles parked on their kickstands behind a sawhorse barricade. The front end dipped as the car got as far as it could go without smashing into a sawhorse guarding the doorway and stopped.

The right rear door opened. A rather bulky, stockinged female leg appeared. Then an unopened umbrella. A hand appeared and popped open the umbrella. The rest of the owner of the leg and the hand stepped out into the rain and walked into the building.

Dick Allen didn't know it, but he was about to lose 40 bucks.

Dick, one of the biggest auctioneers in Onondaga County, already had lost a lot

more than 40 bucks. Pat Mosley, who is one of the few people in all of Onondaga County government who actually puts money back into the pockets of taxpayers, instead of spending it, had just canceled one of her auctions. This one, she said, could have raised \$10,000.

Pat has been holding auctions for a couple of years now. John Muir, the county executive, finally got her a building, part of the old United Parcel Service warehouse, so she would have a place to store the surplus county equipment and stolen goods people never reclaimed from the cops and then sell it through Dick.

The building isn't quite ready. Saturday's auction was to have been for stuff that has cluttered up the stolen property rooms of several police departments, bicycles, a tire iron, a citrus knife — item 194 on the list — cameras, a 10-gallon hot-water heater, stereo speakers, two sets of earrings, a hedge trimmer, two baseball

gloves and a red bowling ball.

Because of exactly eight inches, the auction was canceled.

The auction has been rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 11. It will be held then if the doors have been widened eight inches, as the fire laws demand, from 36 inches. If the doors still are not 44 inches wide, as Mike Waters, the county fire coordinator, wants, then the auction will be held if it doesn't rain again like it did Saturday.

"He's only doing his job," said Pat of Mike.

The items had been lined up out on the warehouse parking lot Saturday morning.

Everything but the people who came to pick over and buy the items were taken inside when the rain began. The browsers and buyers were told to go away and come back on the 11th.

The lady with the umbrella marched up to Dick and held out several necklaces. She had paid \$40 for them at the auction in November. She wanted her money back. The auctioneer, she said, had told her they were gold. When she got home, she found out they weren't gold. They turned green.

"This is what you would call a hustler's dream," said Dick. The only thing gold on the necklace was the tiny clasp. That allows someone to paste a "14k" tag on the box, which allows the buyer to think the whole necklace is gold.

Last year, Terry Pickard, a county legislator, wanted Pat to try another auctioneer. She did.

After one auction, she went back to Dick. The lady with the umbrella dripping on

Dick's feet was one of the other auctioneer's customers.

"He wouldn't give me my money back. He said to come and see you, and you would give me my money back," the lady told Dick.

Dick reached into one of his pockets and came up with a 20 and two 10s.

"It's worth it to keep my good name," said Dick.

He handed the money to the lady. He repeated how important a good name is to an auctioneer.

The woman took the money, looked at the bills and then back at Dick. He knew what she was thinking before she could even open her mouth.

"No," he said, "I'm not going to pay the sales tax on it. No, ma'am."

The lady put the money in her purse. I asked her if she knew the name of the man who had just given her 40 bucks. She looked Dick right in the face. She named the other auctioneer.



Robert R. Haggart