

Father, Daughter Drown as Boat Goes Over Dam

Tragedy marked the outing of two Harvey families on the Kankakee river near Wilmington last Sunday.

A father and daughter were drowned when the swift current of the rain swollen stream carried their boat over the Wilmington dam. Two other occupants of the boat were saved.

The drowning victims were Clem Bottorff, 42, of 15111 Vincennes ave. and his 15 year old daughter, Sharon.

Clare Stanley, 14, of 15717 Carey st. Phoenix, a friend of Sharon, and 5 year old Harold Holler were rescued. An unidentified man pulled the Holler boy out while firemen from Wilmington and Braidwood rescued the Stanley girl. Both children were revived by firemen. Firemen also saved and revived Harold Holler Sr., who, although unable to swim had plunged into the river in an attempt to rescue the victims of the boating accident.

Bottorff and his daughter apparently were sucked into one of the holes at the foot of the dam, made deep by the fall of the water over the years. There is a strong undertow there, according to Wilmington Fire Chief Ralph Adams, that held the two fast. The Stanley girl and Holler boy were released by the undertow and were floating down stream when rescued. Both were unconscious, as was the elder Holler. The Stanley girl was taken to St. Joseph hospital in Joliet where she was treated for shock. The Hollers, father and son, were taken to a physician's office at Wilmington, and later taken to their home. They reside at the same address as the Bottorff's.

There were 19 firemen in the two rescue squads and they recovered the bodies.

The accident occurred shortly after 9 o'clock. Bottorff and the three youngsters had been enjoying a ride along the river. They were in a boat built for an outboard motor. A sheared pin put the engine out of commission. By the time Bottorff had shipped a pair of oars and started to row toward shore the boat was too near the dam, and the current too swift for the man to make any headway.

The water was running at a depth of about two feet over the dam. The boat was carried over and dropped about five feet, capsizing.

Thirty feet further on was safety as the river spreads and becomes shallow at that point.

The inquest will be held at Wilmington Friday night at 7 o'clock by Will County Coroner Willard G. Blood.