

At Robinson Dam Tuesday

# Teen drowns aiding friend

By BECKY BARNES  
News editor

Tragedy struck in Harrison County Tuesday afternoon when a Robinson teenager drown saving the life of another

swimmer.

The wooden floor of the Robinson bridge rattled and echoed as cars and trucks passed over it and passed by dozens of concerned neighbors and friends

who were keeping a vigil while the Harrison County Water Rescue Squad searched for the victim.

From the time the report was made with the Kentucky State

Police at 2:45 p.m. of an apparent drowning in the South Fork of the Licking River, less than two hours lapsed before the body of 16-year-old Jennifer Ritchie was recovered.

Tpr. Brian Leach said that according to accounts from the four witnesses he interviewed, Ritchie and two younger girls had been swimming below the Robinson Dam. Ritchie, Crystal Ritchie, 14, the victim's sister, and Angel Kiskaden, 11, were sitting on the bridge abutments talking with Anthony Huff, 19, when Kiskaden returned to the deeper water, walking toward the dam.

"She apparently got in over her head," said Leach, noting that witnesses stated that Huff went in after the younger girl, followed by Jennifer Ritchie. In her thrashing, Huff reportedly could not hang on to the struggling girl. Huff signaled to a boater in the same pool of water for help.

Deborah Powell of Nicholasville, who was camping with her family near the Robinson Dam, maneuvered her boat where Jennifer and Huff were able to rescue Kiskaden. However, Jennifer had apparently gotten into trouble herself but attempts to find her were in vain.

Powell, who was boating with her three children, ages 4, 8 and 9, said the older girls had been swimming in that hole of water since about 10 a.m.

"They had been hollering all day," said Powell, noting that it took a few minutes to register that someone was actually drowning. That is when she moved her boat in to help.

Powell estimated the water to



JENNIFER RITCHIE

be about seven or eight feet deep where the girls went under.

Kiskaden was taken to Harrison Memorial Hospital by Brown Ambulance Service, where she was treated and released. The Harrison County Volunteer Fire Department water rescue recovered the body and coordinated the dragging of the river.

Ritchie is daughter of Ronald and Teresa Ritchie of Robinson, and Pamela Moore Ritchie and a student at Harrison County High School.

For complete obituary information, please turn to page 6.

Ritchie's death follows just one year after a Corinth boy drown in the same pool of the South Fork. Volunteers worked for three days to recover the body of Todd Gibson, which was June 22, 1992.



Photo by LISA HURST

Members of the Harrison County Volunteer Fire Department coordinated the recovery of 16-year-old Jennifer Ritchie, who had drowned in the South Fork of the Licking River Tuesday afternoon. Firefighters were positioned on the dam as spotters. There were also firefighters below the dam as well as in a boat. It took less than two hours for firemen to make the recovery.