

Thursday, December 9, 1937

Larry Sullivan Is Drowned in Lake at Littlerock Dam

Tragedy Occurs Tuesday Afternoon
—Burial Services Tomorrow

The icy waters of the Littlerock Dam took their first victim at 1:00 Tuesday afternoon, when Larry Sullivan, of Pearlands, was drowned while on a duck hunting expedition. No inquest has been ordered, and funeral services will be held tomorrow, Friday afternoon, at 2:00 o'clock at Mumaw's Funeral Home Chapel in Lancaster, conducted by the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Burial will be in the Palmdale Cemetery.

The tragedy occurred so very suddenly that even Mr. Sullivan's hunting companions, Homer Adams and Cletus Pruett, also of Pearlands, did not know just what was happening.

The men had gone out to the lake about eight o'clock Tuesday morning, and were taking turns using a small row boat, one man going out in the boat and the other two staying on shore. Shortly before the drowning, Mr. Sullivan had been in the boat, standing up rowing, at a narrow point near the south end of the lake, where the water is about fifteen feet deep. Mr. Adams and Mr. Pruett were on the shore at a point about 250 yards farther north. They heard Mr. Sullivan cry out, and saw him in the water. They ran towards the spot, over rocks and up and down a couple of hills, and by the time they reached there, Mr. Sullivan had disappeared from sight and all they saw was the overturned boat and his hat on top of the water.

Luckily, U. S. Forestry Ranger Harold Kendall passed shortly afterwards on patrol, and he notified the Sheriff's Station in Lancaster, and assisted in getting grappling hooks immediately from Big Pines. Mr. Kendall, Gene Breslin, and Ranger Taylor, watchman at the Dam, started out in a boat supplied by "Pop" Cothorn with the grappling hooks about 3:00, and by 4:20 had located the body. No bruises on the body, and the drawn-up right leg, seem to indicate that death had resulted from a paralyzing cramp. The water was about 40 degrees in temperature. Mr. Sullivan was an expert swimmer. The autopsy performed on his body Wednesday morning bore out the cramp theory as the cause of his drowning.

Larry Glenn Wilbur Sullivan was born July 17, 1907, in Los Angeles. He was raised in Antelope Valley, by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Merrel, who lived for many years on a ranch near Lancaster, and now live in Palmdale. He attended the A.V.J.U. High School. He has worked ever since his high school days, at truck driving, in oil field work and forestry work, and for a year or so prior to his death, had worked for the County Road Department out of the Palmdale yards.

Mr. Sullivan was married in 1927 at Santa Ana, and his wife, Mrs. Ida May Sullivan, his step-son Frank Sullivan, aged 12, and their two daughters, Madeline, aged 9, and Lillian, 7, comprise the immediate family mourning the loss of a beloved husband and father. The grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill, of Palmdale, and two aunts, Mrs. Edith Meder and Mrs. Hazel Willis, of Los Angeles, also survive.

"Larry" was one of those happy-go-lucky, kindly sort of fellows who leave a definite imprint of friendli-

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