

01-20-1965 Robert W Mihulec – Vol SAR PSD Recovery Ice

http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php?/incidents/&sortby=col_1&sortdirection=desc&page=1

Fountain Hill Emergency Diving Team

Robert W Mihulec, Aged 20, volunteered to search under ice for the body of a 9 year old boy who had fallen through the ice into the Lehigh River, entered the water roped together with a 19 year old companion, companion survived (treated for hypothermia), diver drowned. Gettysburg Times

<https://newspaperarchive.com/stroudsburg-pocono-record-jan-23-1965-p-3/>

Search Continues For Boy, 9

COPLAY — The search for the body of 9-year-old Frank Lang, Jr., a Northampton child who drowned in the ice-covered Lehigh River on Wednesday, was continued yesterday.

The search was continued by "hard-hat" divers in weighted shoes from the Telford rescue unit.

The Telford divers assisted yesterday in the search, and authorities decided that, because of the ice and the swift current of the Lehigh River, it would be safer for them to continue the work than it would be for scuba divers.

2nd Fatality

One scuba diver, Robert Mihulec, 21, of Allentown, lost his life Wednesday night in an attempt to recover the child's body. Mihulec, a crane operator at the Bethlehem Steel Co. beam yards, learned scuba diving in the Navy. He became wedged beneath the ice during the search Wednesday and drowned.

The Lang child, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Lang, plunged through the ice while he was attempting to cross the river with another boy after they left their fourth grade class at Our Lady of Hungary School in Northampton.

https://www.newspapers.com/image/?clipping_id=24027489&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cGU6IjkiLCJleHAiOiE1NjY4NTYwMzd9.zeorgP9kZLhoS5O9L6cLPRvrhi6IcVSgmnW852n-EDk

peared. Telford unit "hard hat" diver John Klauss | while Klauss moves into deeper water.

100 Probe Lehigh River In Vain for Boy's Body

By WALLY STEFANY

The search of the icy Lehigh River at Coplay for the body of 9-year-old Frank J. Lang Jr. grew into a complex operation that drew more than a hundred volunteers from a radius of more than 60 miles yesterday.

But it halted temporarily at 1:25 a.m. today after more than 19 fruitless hours. The search is expected to resume at 6 a.m. today.

Coplay Fire Chief Stanley Reinhard Jr. and Coplay Councilman Ray Kratzer spent their whole day at the river.

Around 11:30 p.m., the River Road, Coopersburg, Vera Cruz and Old Zionsville fire companies relieved the earlier "shift" of rescue workers. The Lehigh County Civil Defense Rescue Squad also fielded a number of men and provided lights and two 10,000-watt generators.

Frank Lang Jr. broke through the ice about five feet from the Coplay bank of the Lehigh River Wednesday around 2:30 p.m., a school chum told a woman on the Northampton side of the river as he ran homeward carrying his and the Lang boy's schoolbag.

In the search that followed, Robert Mihulec, 20, of 2411 S. 4th St., Allentown, a member of the Fountain Hill Emergency Rescue Squad, drowned beneath the ice as he made a scuba dive with a companion, Gary Samson, 19, of 761 E. Tioga St., Allentown.

Samson, too, was in trouble beneath the ice but rescuers chopped through the ice to him in time and revived him. He was treated for exposure at Northampton Hospital.

The search was stopped about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Coplay and Northampton police and firemen resumed the search about 6 a.m. yesterday, first breaking away huge

chunks of ice that measured an average of six inches thick, although there was at least one area that appeared closer to a foot thick.

During the morning workers chopped through with fire axes. Later several persons used chain saws.

Reinhard said his men had received permission from Lehigh County Fish Warden Norman Sickles to blast the ice loose and the Coplay Cement Co. had offered mud packs for the job.

Mud packs are explosives placed on ice and packed with mud to turn the main force of the blast downward.

But Reinhard said the state police called him from Harrisburg about 11 a.m. and said he should hold off the blasting. Three scuba diving state policemen were assigned from the State Police Academy at Hershey. They arrived about 1:45 p.m. They were Lt. Leon Wrona and Cpls. William McMullen and Wayne Kerr.

Telford Unit Arrives

Later in the afternoon, members of the Telford Diving Unit arrived. Two of them John Klauss of Telford and Thomas Smith of Norristown, had made dives of more than an hour each by last night.

These "hard hat" divers re-

ceived their air supply from an onshore pumping unit. They were connected by telephone at all times to the shore.

Fire companies or their emergency units came from all over the Lehigh Valley. Diving units came from Leighton, Telford and Phillipsburg.

Search groups included: The Telford Diving Unit; Leighton Diving Unit, the Garden State Rescue Squad; emergency units with power lighting and communications equipment from Alburts Fire Co., Emmaus Fire Co. No. 2, and the Cetronia, Woodlawn, Vera Cruz,

Continued on Page 7, Column 3

Ends March 1 Auxiliary Opens Drive To Aid Diver's Widow

The auxiliary of the Fountain Hill Emergency Rescue Squad launched a drive yesterday for funds to aid the widowed bride of scuba diver Robert W. Mihulec who drowned in the Lehigh River Wednesday night trying to recover the body of 9-year-old Frank Lang.

Mihulec and the former Diane K. Overlauer were married on Jan. 9. They had just moved into an apartment at 2411 S. 4th St., Allentown.

Mrs. Eugene Brown,

secretary of the rescue squad auxiliary, said last night it fell to her husband to tell Diane Mihulec of Robert's death. The diver became wedged under ice in the Lehigh River at Coplay.

Mrs. Brown described Mrs. Mihulec as "destitute and in need of funds."

Donations to the fund for Mrs. Mihulec may be sent to the Fountain Hill Emergency Rescue Squad headquarters at 1273 Broadway, Fountain Hill, or to Mrs. Brown at 739 Front St., Hellertown.

Mrs. Brown said the fund drive will end March 1.

Get Ready For Snow Tomorrow

Today is preparation. Tomorrow, snow.

The weatherman at Allentown - Bethlehem - Easton Airport says it will be increasingly cloudy today and tomorrow with snow possibly by tomorrow night.

Temperatures today should be much like yesterday with a high near 40 and a low between 15 and 20 degrees.

Yesterday's high of 35 was recorded at 3:30 p.m. and the low of 17 came at 7 a.m. It was 23 at midnight.

Average winds were from the west-southwest at 13 miles per hour with high winds of 22 m.p.h. from the same direction at 1:30 p.m. There were gusts to 33 m.p.h. at 12:30 a.m.

The Skies Today

Sunset today 5:07 p.m.

https://www.newspapers.com/clip/26278952/the_morning_call/

THIRD

Boy Lost, Diver Seeking Body Dies Under Lehigh River Ice

The icy Lehigh River claimed two lives yesterday — a Northampton boy who walked the frozen river with a school chum and a scuba diver trying to find his body under the ice near the Coplay shore.

The dead:

Frank J. Lang Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lang of 213 E. 19th St., Northampton.

Robert W. Mihulec, 21, of 2411 S. 4th St., Allentown.

Sunday the Lang boy and his sister had been warned by their father of the danger of walking on river ice.

Northampton Police Chief Peter Stout said the Lang boy and another youngster, unidentified up to

Complete details and photos on Pages 1, 18

last night, had apparently ventured out on the river ice just after classes ended at 2:25 p.m. at Northampton's Our Lady of Hungary Elementary School, where the Lang boy was in the 4th grade.

Stout said Northampton police were called by a woman who had seen the two boys on the ice near the Coplay side of the river but later noticed the one boy returning excitedly to the Northampton bank carrying two schoolbags. She asked the boy where his buddy was, Stout said, and the boy said his buddy, the Lang boy, had broken through the ice about five feet from the Coplay shore.

Stout assigned most of his department and notified Coplay police and both borough departments probed the icy water.

Stout said Fountain Hill Emergency Rescue Squad personnel called about 4:30 p.m. to offer their services in diving for the body. Their offer was accepted and their personnel began arriving within the hour.

About 8 p.m., with lights set up at the break-through scene—about 1,000 feet north of the Coplay-Northampton Bridge—the scuba divers began their dives.

Mihulec, recently discharged from the Navy, where he had taken some scuba diving training, made a dive with a nonmember of the squad, Gary Samson, 19, of 361 E. Toga St., Allentown, who had volunteered his services.

Each trailed a guideline rope to on-shore personnel who watched the beams of their flashlights working beneath the ice.

Suddenly someone shouted: "They're in trouble! The rope is jammed!"

Immediately the ice crawled with rescuers, chopping through the ice with poles, ladders, boot heels.

Samson was recovered barely conscious.

Mihulec was pronounced dead at Northampton Hospital of accidental drowning.



FRANK J. LANG JR.

Worth Repenting

As the joy-ful only shows when on the way, so is with the human mind — when at rest, it darkness.

MORNING CALL

https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fimg.newspapers.com%2Fimg%2Fimg%3FinstitutionId%3D0%26user%3D0%26id%3D275237225%26width%3D557%26height%3D642%26crop%3D817_2707_1850_2174%26rotation%3D0%26brightness%3D0%26contrast%3D0%26invert%3D0%26ts%3D1556801497%26h%3Dba97cde10fc509d01a86690380261f1e&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.newspapers.com%2Fclip%2F26278814%2Fthe_morning_call%2F&docid=OfZovtZiR7DnmM&tbid=FaCAYaNCG8wsTM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwij_P-UgZ_kAhVOJKwKHZC-B6wQMwhEKAUwBQ..i&w=546&h=642&itg=1&bih=710&biw=1536&q=Robert%20W%20Mihulec%2C%20lehigh%20river%20diver%20drowns&ved=0ahUKEwij_P-UgZ_kAhVOJKwKHZC-B6wQMwhEKAUwBQ&iact=mrc&uact=8

Day of River Searching Fails to Locate Body

Volunteer units and police and fire personnel of several boroughs put in another full day on the Lehigh River at Coplay yesterday, searching for the body of Frank J. Lang Jr., who broke through the ice Jan. 20.

Coplay Fire Chief Stanley Reinhard Jr. said last night that members of both the Telford and Garden State Diving

Units made dives. The river ice was broken up by blasting again. But by nightfall, the ice closed in once more.

Reinhard said the Telford Diving Unit personnel made dives between blasts to clear away the slush ice that collected beneath the hard surface ice. Workers opened a channel from the point where the 9-year-old Lang boy disappeared to a point near the Coplay-Northampton Bridge, a distance of about 400 feet.

Reinhard said blasting ended about 3 p.m., and the last diver came up about 6 p.m.

"As far as we know there will be no blasting for the next day or two," Reinhard said.

The Garden State Diving unit made dives in the area of the Hokendauqua Dam, just upstream from the Hokendauqua Bridge. The dam is about a mile south of the Coplay-Northampton Bridge.

Reinhard said diving will be resumed this evening and that divers intend to enter the river from the Northampton side. There is a current that runs from the Coplay shore toward the Northampton shore just a little below the spot where the boy fell through the ice, Reinhard said.

In Fountain Hill, Mrs. Milton Hoffman said last night that the fund for the family of Robert W. Mihulec now stands at about \$330.

Mrs. Hoffman and her husband are active in the Fountain Hill Emergency Rescue Squad, of which Mihulec was a member.

Mihulec, a bridegroom of 10 days, drowned beneath the ice about six hours after the Lang boy disappeared. Mihulec and Gary Samson of Allentown made a companion scuba dive to look for the body and the swift current got them into trouble. Samson suffered from exposure.

Rooney To Attend Mail Talks

Rep. Fred B. Rooney, who missed a speaking engagement Saturday night in Bethlehem because of a cold virus, expects to attend the public meeting today in Bethlehem to discuss mail delivery.

Rooney was scheduled to be a speaker at a victory dinner of the Bethlehem City Democratic Committee Saturday night, but was unable to attend.

Mrs. Rooney said last night that her husband will be able to attend the hearing scheduled for 10 o'clock this morning in Hotel Bethlehem.

Allentown Band Meyers Marks

Artist members of the Allentown Band, the nation's oldest, were spotlighted as the band launched its 137th season yesterday afternoon before a near-capacity audience in Symphony Hall.

The event also marked an anniversary for Albertus L. Meyers, who embarked on his 40th year as the band's conductor, tying him in tenure with his immediate predecessor, Martin F. Klingler. Over its long history there have been only five conductors of the band.

Soloists were Stanley J. Moyer, cornetist, and Robert Becker, marimbaist.

Moyer, who has been with the

Str
en
fir:
11:
ing
/
br:
Me
Bo
Ha
ly'
St.
St.
Lo
/
834
100
&
Se
an
/
wi
Bo
St.
7

ba
fo
Ur
its
ed
an
ga
Ba
or
co
in:
at
st
pl
"E
Hi
Al
12,
we
"E