

Boy, 11, Drowns Near Fallbrook

An 11-year-old San Pedro boy drowned yesterday while wading with a companion in a pool in the Santa Margarita River bed north of Fallbrook.

The victim was Michael Maurice Larson, 11, son of Mrs. Margaret Larson.

Deputy Coroner Ladd said Michael stepped into a six-foot hole while wading in three feet of water with a companion, Robert Vining, 13, of 335 W. Hawthorne St., Fallbrook. Michael could not swim.

Mrs. Larson, who had taken Michael to Fallbrook to visit the Vining boy, was parked near the DeLuz road crossing, three miles north of Fallbrook, while the boys played in the water.

When Michael went under, the Vining boy shouted at some nearby children for help, Ladd said. They ignored him, thinking it was a prank.

Three men who were swimming farther north answered the cries but Michael had disappeared by the time they arrived.

The men, who recovered Michael's body within 20 minutes, were Richard Walker of 440 Hambaugh Pl., Vista; Bob Compton of 947 W. Lincoln Ave., Escondido; and Andrew Johnson of Costa Mesa.

Auto Hits Boy; Clerk Arrested

A clerk was arrested last night on suspicion of felonious drunken driving after his car struck and injured a boy.

The clerk, Luther E. Luttrell Sr., 47, of 2265 Curlew St., was booked in the city jail.

The boy, Gary Grigsby, 6, of 3317 Orange Ave., East San Diego, was taken to the Naval Hospital from the accident scene at First avenue and Elm street.

Traffic Patrolman James A. Smith said the northbound car was within the 25-mile-an-hour speed limit when it struck the boy in an unmarked crosswalk.

Smith said the boy suffered injuries to his jaw and head and cuts on his arms and legs.