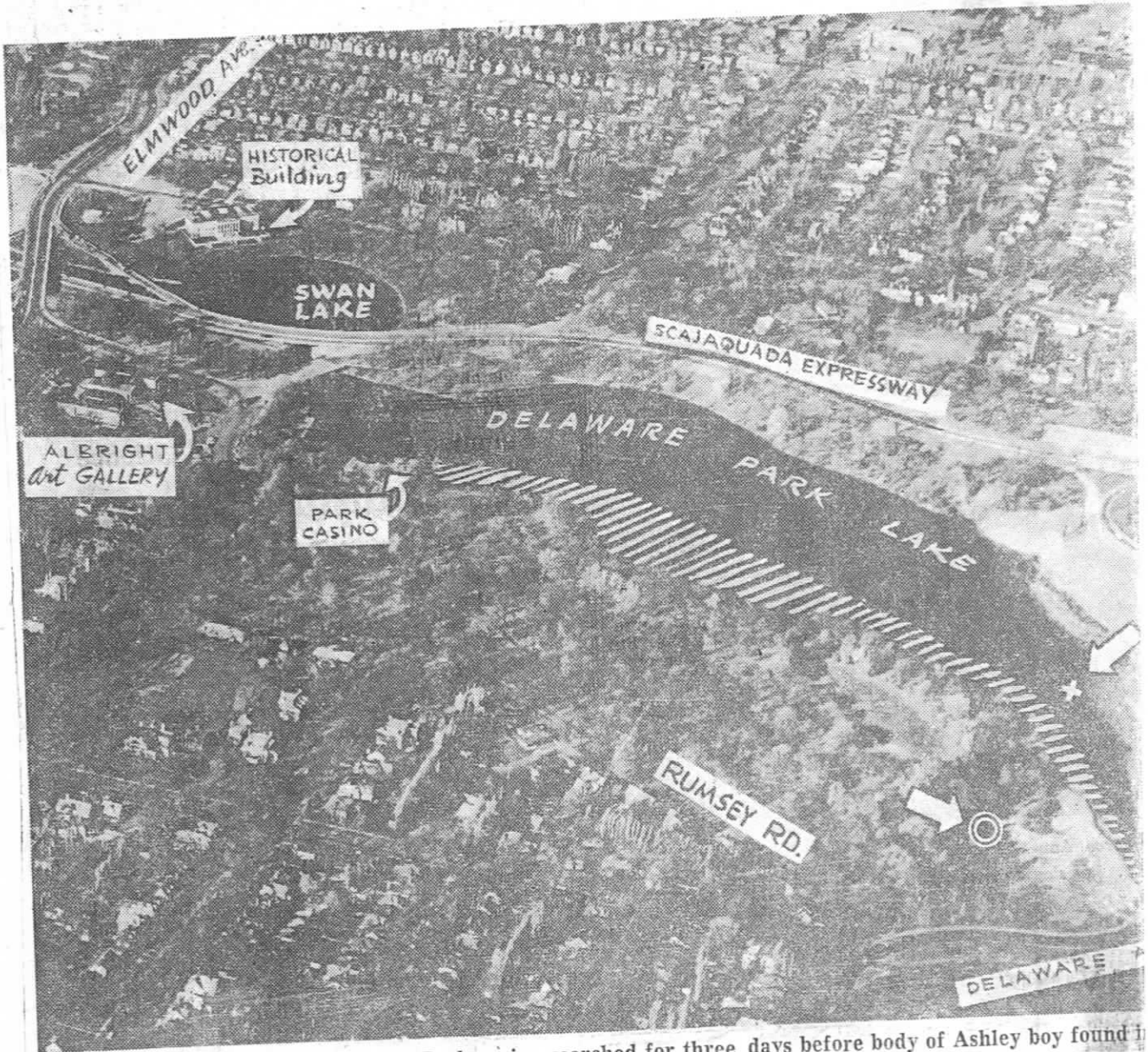


Bound Body of Found in Delaw



Aerial photo of Delaware Park region searched for three days before body of Ashley boy found in
... arrow points to circle marking spot where some clothing of a woman

JUN 25 1961

f Missing Boy /are Park Lake

Child Drowned Within Hour Of Abduction

By MANUEL BERNSTEIN

The search for 3½-year-old Andrew T. Ashley ended at 2:34 yesterday afternoon when his body — hands and feet tied — was found floating in Delaware Park Lake off the south drive of Delaware Ave. near Nottingham Terr.

The blond-haired child, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Ashley, 195 Jewett Pky., was last seen about 4 Friday afternoon when neighbors saw a dark-haired woman, about 35, take him by the hand and walk him toward the zoo.

About 500 persons, including policemen, auxiliary policemen, Boy Scouts, members of the National Guard and volunteer citizens were searching for the child when the tragic discovery was made.

The child's hands were tied behind his back with a woman's nylon stocking. His feet also were tied with a nylon stocking. What appeared to be a dish-towel was tied tightly around his neck. The body was clad in a tee shirt and underpants. His shoes and outer clothing were missing.

An autopsy, completed shortly before 6 last evening, showed the child died of suffocation by drowning. Medical Examiner James J. Creighton reported. He was not strangled, the medical examiner declared.

Child Was Bound, Tossed Into Water

The abductor bound the child and then tossed his body in the water, Dr. Creighton theorized.



lake at "X" mark
was found Saturday afternoon.
... photo by Earl G. Hoffman

cide.

Dr. Creighton said his examination indicated that the boy died between 4 and 5 p.m. Friday.

The body was discovered in three feet of water about seven feet from shore by Lt. Robert Kawczynski, 26, of 22 Rounds Ave., attached to the 127th Medium Armored Tank Battalion of the National Guard. He was a member of a detail of 45 National Guardsmen under command of Lt. Ronald J. Bolander who had volunteered to search for the child.



Kawczynski

Authorities believe the body was tossed into the water near the stone overhead bridge just south of Nottingham Terr. It floated about 200 yards south near the scene of dredging operations in Delaware Park Lake.

When Lt. Kawczynski spotted the body, he called to Sgt. Stanley L. Rasprzak.

Andrew T. Ashley

... murder victim

"I think I see a body in the water," he shouted. "I don't want to disturb it. Get into the jeep and bring the police."

Rasprzak drove to the Delaware Park casino where Capt. Charles De Voe and Patrolmen John R. Harris and Rocco Navarro were grappling from a boat. The spot where the body was lying was marked with a large piece of wood. Lt. Kawczynski and Patrolman Harris then gently lifted the body from the water and brought it to shore.

'Tears Your Heart Out,' Doctor Declares

"It is a sight like this that makes my job difficult," Dr. Creighton commented. "When you see a child brutally murdered, it tears your heart out."

Mayor Frank A. Sedita, Commissioner Frank N. Felicetta, Inspector William H. Schneider,

BOY'S BOUND
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Boy's Bound Body Found in Park Lake

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Capt. James J. O'Donnell, Asst. Det. Chief John D. McCarthy, commander of the Homicide Bureau, and numerous other policemen hurried to the scene when the discovery was announced over the police radio.

"We are dealing with a woman maniac," Mayor Sedita said. "Please tell the public to keep a close watch on their children until we apprehend the person responsible for this horrible crime. Tell them not to let their children out of their sight for a single moment."

The commissioner asserted that the person responsible is mentally ill and probably will continue to commit similar crimes. He, too, appealed to the people to keep a close watch on their young ones.

When news of the death of her son reached Mrs. Donna Ashley, 26, she became hysterical. A physician was summoned to the house and she was given a sedative and ordered to bed.

Police, meanwhile, drove the boy's father to the Erie County Morgue at Meyer Memorial Hospital to make positive identification. He entered the au-

topsy room, accompanied by the Rev. Daniel F. Kennedy, OMI, an instructor at Bishop Fallon High School, who had given the child the last rites of the Catholic Church after the body was placed on the shore of Delaware Park Lake.

Ashley held his composure but he asked to be returned to his home immediately so that he could be with his grief-stricken wife.

Meanwhile, police were running down clues phoned in by citizens. Even the most trivial leads were being investigated. Felicetta said he had detailed several special squads to assist in the investigation, and there was plenty of manpower on hand to do the job.

Susan Benedict, 5, and Richard Edgington, 5, both recent victims of an abductor who left them bound and gagged in isolated spots in North Buffalo, accompanied police on several of the investigations. They viewed several women in North Buffalo homes but could not make an identification.

The police laboratory is examining a pair of woman's brown shoes, several articles of woman's underclothing and a 15-foot length of electric cord found in Delaware Park near the lake on Saturday.