

Paul Edward Auguste

(- 1 Aug 1930)

Auguste, Paul Edward, beloved son of George O. and the late Irene S. Auguste (nee King), aged 11 years. Funeral services will be held at his late residence, 3915 Illinois ave. n.w., on Monday, August 4, at 10:30 a.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, August 1, 1930, p. 17

Boy of 11 Drowns As 3 Fail Rescue Accident in Anacostia River Under Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge Ends Swim

Unable to swim and losing hold of a length of rope to which he was clinging beneath the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge this morning, Paul Edwin August, 11 years old, of 3915 Illinois avenue, was drowned in the Eastern Branch of the Anacostia River before the eyes of three helpless companions.

Police of the harbor and eleventh precincts brought the body out of the water early this afternoon and removed it to the District Morgue. One fireman attached to No. 8 Engine Company was taken to Casualty Hospital for injuries received while he was diving in efforts to locate the body. He is Pvt. L.A. Knight, who sustained cuts on both feet from broken glass in the water.

According to the boy's companions, Kenneth and Phillip Swann, brothers, 9 and 12 years old, respectively, of 643 East Capitol street, and Preston Marmon, who gave an address on A street southeast, they had gone down to the river on the Anacostia Park side shortly after 9 o'clock. Making their way out to the first trestle over the steel girders, the boys disrobed, and with the aid of a length of rope, descended to the water. They said Paul was unable to swim, but was splashing about in the water at the end of the rope.

When he lost his grasp, they said, they tried vainly to rescue him, one of them being almost drowned in the attempt. They swam back to the trestle. Hurriedly donning their clothing, they ran away, one stopping for a moment at a gas filling station at the south end of the bridge to say that "a boy had drowned."

Joseph Burke of No. 8 N street southeast, an attendant at the filling station, said he did not see more than the one boy, who dashed away immediately and without leaving his name or the name of the boy who was drowned.

C. Miller, a colored laborer, of 4400 Lane place northeast, who was in Anacostia Park at the time of the drowning, said he had noticed the boys bathing in the river, and saw that one of them appeared to be smaller than the others, was not swimming with the group away from the trestle. As he watched, however, he said, this boy let go of the rope and seemed to drift away on the surface of the water toward the others, but sank before reaching them.

For some time after the arrival of the rescue squad and members of the eleventh and harbor police, officers were unable to disclose the identity of the drowned boy. His clothes, a khaki shirt, pair of trousers, and pair of sneaks and socks, together with a peaked sun headpiece, were the only means of identification they had.

Police reported that the boy had been staying with his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah J. August o 107 Seventh street southeast. The Swann brothers, when they left the scene of the drowning, went directly to her and told her of the tragedy. Police of the fifth precinct were notified and took the boys to the bridge, where they identified the clothing.