

James Arthur Birch

(- 16 May 1931)

Birch, James A. Suddenly, on Saturday, May 16, 1931, James A., beloved son of Mrs. Ira Birch, aged 13 years. Funeral from his late residence, Pleasant st., Maryland Park, Md., on Tuesday, May 19, at 12:30 p.m., thence to Maryland Park Christian Church, where services will be held at 1 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, *May 17, 1931, p. 17*

Attempts Rescue

Boys Effort To Save His Friend Fails

Efforts of Arthur Birch, 13-year-old Maryland Park High School student, to grab a dead fish in the Eastern Branch yesterday afternoon cost his life. Unable to swim, the boy walked into deep water and drowned.

Birch and Carroll Clark, his 12-year-old playmate, had been fishing and playing for some time near Benning Bridge when the dead fish floated downstream. Birch went after it, unaware of the depth of the water. Clark went to his rescue and succeeded in grabbing his hand, but the drowning boy lost his grip and sank.

Birch's body was recovered about an hour later by harbor police. The body was taken to the District morgue.

Birch's widowed mother was overcome by the shock of the boy's death and had to be given medical attention. At the time of the drowning she was taking care of children for a family in Southeast Washington.

Mrs. Birch lives in Seat Pleasant, Md. Clark also lives there.

Besides his mother, Birch is survived by a sister, Virginia, 8 years old, and a 7-year-old brother, Edward. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.