

(Drowned July 29, 1929)

PHOENIXVILLE, PA.,

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 1929

## Peter Koch, 9, Drowns In River; Brother Stumbles Over Body

### Son of John Koch, of Grant Street, Thought to Have Been Seized With Cramps; Physician, Father and Others Work Over Body an Hour Without Success

Peter Koch, nine-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Koch, of 17 Grant street, drowned in the Schuylkill river yesterday morning about 11:30 o'clock. Artificial respiration by several of his playmates who were swimming with him at the time, failed to restore life to the lad, who was considered a good swimmer.

Koch, accompanied by four other youngsters, went swimming in the Schuylkill, near Back Rock Dam and opposite the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad tunnel. While some of the boys were playing on the bank of the river, young Koch floated about a dozen yards away, swimming alone.

Probably suffering from "cramps," that seized him while swimming, causing contraction of the muscles, Koch sank without any warning whatever. His playmates were unaware that he went down and no one seemed to miss him.

Anthony Koch, aged 12, a brother of the drowned youth, was wading into shore after swimming for awhile. As he was walking he stumbled. He called for assistance and together with Ignatius Dohy, aged 20, of Emmett and Dayton streets, discovered that the obstruction was his brother's body.

The boy was dragged out of the river. No one knew how long he had

been under water. The father, a track walker employed by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, was going home and was notified of the mishap by one of the boys who ran for help.

The father ran to the place where his son's body lay. He picked him up and carried him to the home, situated not very far away. The Reading railroad and the canal separates the Schuylkill river and Grant street.

Dr. J. G. Baxter, local physician, was immediately summoned. The physician worked over the stricken youth for fully an hour in an effort to revive him. Dominic Amanado, Dominic Bernallo, Ignatius Dohy and Anthony Koch, older brother of the drowned youth, tried all sorts of means to revive him, but their efforts proved futile.

Youth Koch, who was an excellent swimmer, had been subject to rheumatism. He was a pupil of the second grade in the St. Mary's school and was one of the most popular and well liked boys around the Grant and Dayton streets vicinity.

Besides his parents, who are both overcome with grief, the following sisters and brothers survive: Anthony, Josephine, Nancy, Mary, Anna, John Ernest and Rose. Announcement of the funeral will be made later.

July 30, 1929

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Due notice of the funeral will be given later.

JULY 31, 1929

COC CIA—Suddenly, on July 29, 1929, Peter, son of John and Rose Coccia, aged 9 years.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited, without further notice, to attend the funeral services at the home of his parents, 18 Grant St., on Thursday, August 1st at 9 o'clock. High Mass at 10 o'clock in St. Mary's Church.

Interment at St. Mary's Cemetery.

PETER COCCIA Aug. 1, 1929

Impressive funeral services marked the burial of Peter Coccia, nine-year old son of John and Rosa Coccia, who drowned last Monday morning in the Schuylkill river. Services were held this morning from the home of his parents, 18 Grant street, and later at St. Mary's Church. Father James O'Hakon was celebrant of the High Requiem Mass.

The funeral was largely attended and there were numerous and beautiful floral tributes. Cousins of the deceased acted as pallbearers. They were Joseph Gullilo, Bert Gullilo, Nicholas Gullilo and Louis Marchington. Interment was made in St. Mary's Cemetery.