

Note In Sand Clue

2nd Hiker's Body Found At Canyon

By BARBARA WEST

GRAND CANYON — A note written in the sand yesterday led the searchers to the body of a second member of an ill-fated hiking trip to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

Park rangers found the body of the Rev. Eugene A. Gavigan, 32, a Trappist priest on vacation from Savannah, Ga., at the foot of a 100-foot cliff in Tanner Wash.

Father Gavigan was a former student at St. Mary's High School in Phoenix.

SUNDAY, the park rangers found the body of Walter J. Mahany Jr., 16, also of Savannah. Still missing is Mason Owens, 16 also of Savannah.

Yesterday, rangers found the note, apparently written by Mahany on the shores of the Colorado.

"Help," it said. "One may be dead. Fall of 100 feet. Upper ravine."

Ranger A. L. Coffin said the searchers followed the canyon, and found the 100-foot cliff and the body of Father Gavigan.

Coffin said the party of three apparently started down into the canyon Friday afternoon. The trail, near Litan Point, was marked "dangerous and not maintained," Coffin said.

Coffin said he believes the priest fell sometime Friday evening, and apparently died of his injuries.

THE YOUTHS apparently split up, going different directions for help.

Saturday, tourists on the rim of the canyon heard cries for help. Rangers were flown in to start the search.

Mahany apparently had been wandering in circles in the 120-degree heat of the canyon.

Mahany's body was found about 1½ miles up Tanner Wash from the note in the sand. Coffin said he apparently died of heat prostration and dehydration.

WEARY RANGERS, pulled out of the canyon at nightfall yesterday by a helicopter from Luke Air Force Base, will resume their search today for Owens.

Relatives in Georgia told yesterday how the youths had been saving money for the trip with Father Gavigan.

They had mowed lawns and done odd jobs to earn money for the trip with the priest, who was assistant pastor of St. James Cathedral, and was known as an excellent camper.

Father Gavigan attended St.



WALTER J. MAHANY JR.



REV. EUGENE A. GAVIGAN



MASON OWENS

Mary's High School in Phoenix in 1945, leaving in 1946 to enter the Trappist order. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Gavigan, at that time resided at 3818 E. Van Buren.

Born in Dodgeville, Wis., he moved to Phoenix from Racine, Wis., entering St. Mary's as a sophomore, according to school records. Picture, Page 21.

A Prayer

ALMIGHTY GOD, by Thy presence calm the hearts that beat too fast, dry the tears that are too hot, ease the nerves that are too taut because swift tragedy hast entered where we had looked for only joy and happiness. Then neither life nor death, things present nor things to come, may shatter our confidence that in all things Thou art working for our good.

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