

STRIKES ROCK —

Pistol Accident Kills Nantahala Youth Friday

A 19-year-old Macon County youth was accidentally shot and killed by a .22 pistol Friday afternoon in the Laurel Creek section.

Gilbert Pendergrass, of Nantahala, was lizard hunting with his father, William M. Pendergrass, and Charles Rathbone when a pistol he was carrying in his belt fell out and discharged. The older men told Coroner John Kusterer the youth was moving a large rock in a search for lizards and that the pistol struck another rock and fired. The bullet struck him in the abdomen. The coroner said death was caused by internal hemorrhage and ruled it was accidental.

Sheriff Bryce Rowland assisted in the investigation.

In addition to his father, surviving are his mother, Mrs. Leona Pendergrass; four brothers, Vester Pendergrass, of Franklin, Route 3, Lawrence and Daniel Pendergrass, of Valdese, and Larry Pendergrass, of the home; four sisters, Mrs. Thelma Pendergrass, of Andrews, and Misses Ella and Mildred Pendergrass, both of the home, and Mrs. Ruth P.

Bateman, of Peachtree; and the maternal grandfather, Miles Pendergrass, of Nantahala.

Funeral services were held Sunday, the 7th, at the White Oak Baptist Church, of which he was a member, by the Rev. S. J. Waters and the Rev. Harley Younce. Burial was in the Aquone cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were C. L. and Tom Pendergrass, Hubert West, Virgil Mason, Lloyd Lakey, and Harold Waters.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.