

Twin Creek Tracking Team Helps UC Authorities

May 8, Van Zandt County Sheriff's Deputy Jackie Buccafurno was contacted by Wayne Young and Robert Crumley, investigators for the Upshur County Sheriff's Office, who advised there was a missing Gilmer man and believed he had drowned near Gilmer.

The investigators requested the use of the all-volunteer Twin Creek Tracking Team, located in Van Zandt County, in an effort to locate the drowning victim.

The victim, identified as Harold Mims, 32 YOA, had been missing since March 11. Due to heavy rains, it wasn't until six weeks later the Upshur County Sheriff's Office could safely enter a creek near Mims' residence to check for his pickup.

Approximately one week prior to requesting the K-9 Search Team, Mims' truck was located just off a bridge in the creek. Nearby divers and dozens of searchers were brought in, but were unsuccessful in locating Mims.

After receiving the call, Buccafurno, director of Twin Creek K-9 Search Team, started organizing a search for the victim. A K-9 Water Cadaver Team from San Antonio was con-

tacted by Buccafurno to conduct the search of the water, while two members of the Twin Creek Team with Bloodhounds were set to conduct the land search.

The Twin Creek Teams, consisting of handler Doug Daniels and his K-9 Molly B., and Tommy Buccafurno and K-9 Hunter, accomplished land tracker and Van Zandt County Posse member, Wayne Bare, arrived Thursday morning, while the San Antonio Teams, consisting of Donna-Michelle Werner with her K-9 Doberman, and Deiter Werner and his K-9 Doberman arrived Thursday afternoon.

Plans were made for an early Friday morning search when both San Antonio teams were placed in boats searching the creek waters. The Twin Creek

Teams of Van Zandt County worked the shorelines.

The search was started at approximately 8 a.m. and about 9:25 a.m., the body of Mims was found on dry land approximately 100 yards from the creek.

Mims was transported to the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas for autopsy. Authorities state there doesn't appear to be any evidence of foul play and feel it was a traffic accident.