

Canoeists missing in Onondaga Lake

2 feared drowned

By Hart Seely and Dan McGuire
Staff Writers

Authorities say Burt Adams and Joseph Kinsella were very careful on Onondaga Lake Saturday evening.

Seeing dark clouds approaching, the two Baldwinsville men sailed to the Willow Bay marina, hauled their fiberglass canoe ashore and phoned their wives to tell them all was safe.

The rains soon came. Then the sky turned blue.

Shortly before 2 p.m., the two men — both fathers of young children — sailed back out in their homemade canoe.

"That second storm came on with a great deal of speed and force," Onondaga County Lake Park ranger chief Michael Perry said this morning. "It was something no sailor could have predicted."

That sudden thunderstorm, which brought winds in excess of 40 miles per hour, is being blamed for the apparent drowning of the two men Saturday.

With boats, helicopters and high-tech sonar equipment, authorities searched the lake Sunday for Adams and Kinsella. But they only

found a paddle and a plastic cooler from the craft.

They have vowed to keep searching.

"Although we didn't know them

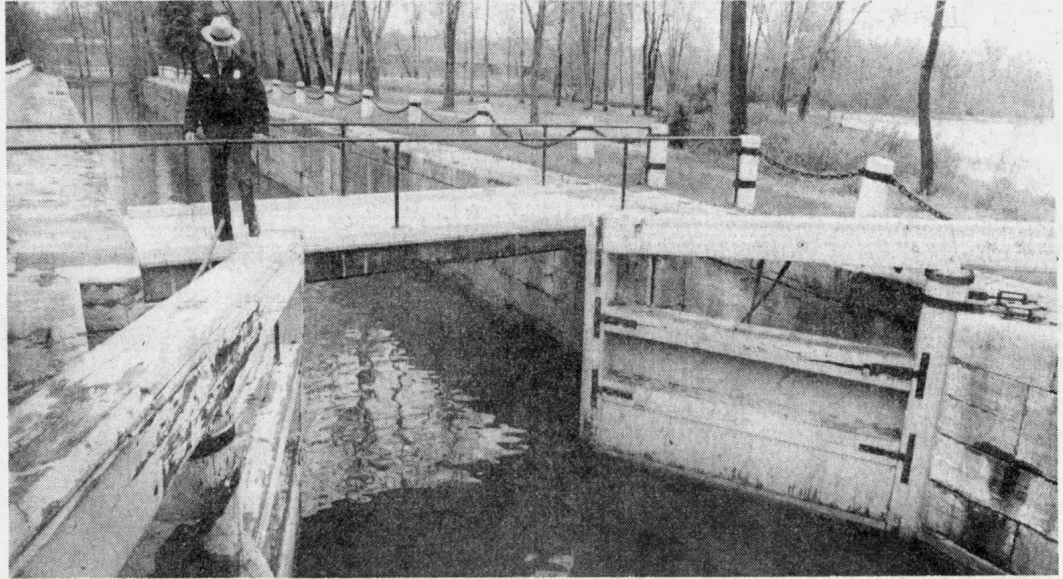
before this incident, we've come to know of them," Perry said. "I'd say there's a real sadness here. We'd like to find something . . . to help the families some way."

The sadness is keenest on Braeside Avenue in Baldwinsville, where Adams and Kinsella are neighbors and close friends.

Adams, 35, is a farm machinery

salesman, with two children, one a two-week-old infant, friends said today.

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Onondaga County Park Ranger Matt Sitnik checks the Mud Locks this morning for evidence of two missing canoeists.

Herald-Journal photo by C.W. McKeen.