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and to teen-age parents. If teen-age parents or 13- and 14-year-olds failed to enroll in school by Feb. 1, their AFDC ben-

efits may occur when the program applies to the entire 13- to 19-year-old age group in the fall.

Most of the 13- and 14-year-olds shouldn't be a problem for the families, and most of our clients find a way to

school non-attendance involves to the 14-year-olds in his county, which includes the city of Green Bay.



Mark Morson/Staff Photographer

Diver Rick Nelson of Brooklyn Park emerges from a hole in a Rosemount pond on Wednesday. The hole is of a mysterious

origin, but University of Minnesota geologist Calvin Alexander says it would be a long shot if a meteorite caused it.

Hole in ice causing more than a ripple

By Michele Cook
Staff Writer

There's a hole in the icy pond behind Pete and Kathy Peterson's house in Rosemount, and on Wednesday it was getting an awful lot of attention.

Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration, the University of Minnesota, the local police force, and a society that investigates unidentified flying objects all stopped by to get a look at the hole and take a guess at what caused it.

Rosemount police ruled out an ill-fated snowmobile rider because they could find no tracks, and the

FAA had no reports of fallen aircraft parts, so the Petersons and their neighbors thought they might have a meteorite in their midst.

The people who run KSTP-TV decided to get to the bottom of it all and hired divers from the Over Easy Scuba Center in North St. Paul at a cost of \$300.

In the end, this much is certain:

"What we have here is a hole in the ice," said University of Minnesota geologist Calvin Alexander.

Divers Rick Nelson and Bill Schmidt spent an hour pawing through 4 inches of silt and found nothing save a couple of rocks. That doesn't mean there isn't a meteorite down there, buried deep in the pond's floor, but Alexander recommended that the search be continued in the spring.

"For it to have been caused by a meteorite, we're talking fundamentally about a long shot," he said.

Alexander gets 20 to 30 calls a year from people who think they have a meteorite on their property, but in 14 years, he has had no real McCoys. This Please see Hole/2B

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was the first time he's been called to investigate a possible meteorite under ice.

"You take the calls seriously and you keep looking," he said. "Sooner or later, someone is going to find one."

Also visiting the hole Wednesday was William McNeff, state director for the Mutual UFO Network. The last time he checked out a possible UFO sighting was in 1985, when a Park Rapids farm wife claimed she was visited by a friendly alien in the family's pig lot.

Whatever it was that busted the 8-inch thick ice on the pond, it was loud enough that Pete Peterson sat upright in bed at 1 a.m. Tuesday.

"Pete got up and looked down the basement thinking that the cats knocked something over. I didn't

hear it — I sleep like a rock," Kathy Peterson said.

Pete Peterson, a St. Paul police officer, described the sound as a sharp crack, much like lighting striking a tree. He took a look around the house, found the cats and dog behaving themselves, and went back to bed.

In the morning, neighbor Karin Drexten spotted the hole and called police.

In Minnesota's 130-year history, only four meteorites have been found on the ground and recorded, Alexander said. On average, 5 to 10 meteorites are believed to fall in the state a year, he said, but most probably end up in farm fields and go unnoticed.

The Petersons and their neighbors, Barry and Karin Drexton, said they might pool together some money and have the pond drained,

or rent a metal detector and go over the ice since meteorites are heavy in metal.

"We're just glad it didn't hit the house," Pete Peterson said. "It's a little bit too close for comfort."
