

Post 7/16/59

Pagan's Death Laid to Drugs

The death of a Pagan motorcycle club member, whose body was found Sunday sealed in a steel barrel in the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal, has been ruled accidental due to an overdose of narcotics, by the Baltimore City Medical Examiner.

Dr. Werner U. Spitz, who performed the autopsy at the request of Maryland State police, said James K. Vargas, 22, of Woodbridge, Va., had diabetes and was taking daily injections of insulin as well as regular doses of a narcotic.

Dr. Spitz said that Vargas' body had been immersed in water for "two or three days" but said the way the body was jammed into the steel drum

probably prevented a great amount of water from entering.

Vargas was found Sunday evening when a fisherman noticed the barrel lying on the Canal shore near Chesapeake City, Md. The barrel had been welded shut.

Nicknamed "Joy Man," Vargas had been reported missing from a Pagan encampment near North East, Md., on the weekend of July 5.

A State police investigator said they will try to determine who placed the body in the container.