

Policemen Protect Swimmers at Jones Beach

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JONES BEACH, L.I., June 20 — Helicopters, motor launches and uniformed policemen filled in here today for lifeguards who have not shown up for work since the beach season opened.

With a Father's Day crowd of 170,000 on the sands, helicopters hovered over breaking waves and policemen aboard the cop-ters shouted instructions to the bathers. "Do not go out beyond the shallow water," they yelled.

Meanwhile, about 100 yards out, beyond the cresting waves, Coast Guard boats patrolled for disobedient wayward swimmers. None were found.

On shore, instead of the familiar lifeguard stands, there were panel trucks with teams of uniformed policemen. They stood atop the cabs and scanned the seascape, blowing whistles whenever a swimmer moved much beyond hip level.

Swimmer Resuscitated

The policemen were in full uniform, down to their gunbelts and handcuffs. Were they prepared to go in, one of them was asked. "Sure," he answered. "Those of us who know how to swim."

So far, in the two weeks ends that the emergency precautions have been in effect, none of the policemen have had to get wet.

One of them, however,

resuscitated a swimmer who nearly drowned today.

At Beach Two this afternoon, Margaret DeGroot, a 20-year-old resident of the Bronx, was swamped by a large wave. She lost consciousness and was dragged to shore by some of the people swimming near her. Patrolman Edward McDermott administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and restored her breathing.

George Miller, the assistant superintendent of the state park here, said that this was the only such incident this year.

Mr. Miller explained that the lifeguards who had worked here over the years had not reported this season.

91 New Guards on Job

"Normally we hire about 360 of these guys every year," he said. "This year, because of the budget, we were cut down to 300, but the guards took an all-of-us-or-none-of-us position."

The labor dispute is between the Long Island State Park Commission, which runs the state beaches here and on Fire Island, and at Sunken Meadow and Heckscher State Parks, and Local 381 of the Building Service Employees Union. The issues involve both wages and the size of the work force.

The park here has advertised for lifeguards and so far about 150 have been hired after passing a test that requires men to swim 100 yards in less than 80 seconds. Of



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Signs at Jones Beach told the story yesterday as striking lifeguards remained off duty

these, only 91 have stayed on. Mr. Miller said that the others had been harassed by last year's guards and forced to quit.

Those who are still working are assigned to the two pools and to the bay area swimming beach here. "These guys are good enough for still-water guards, but they're probably not ready for surf," Mr. Miller said.

He said he had received reports of the harassment by last year's guards who, he said, showed up at the beach

almost every day. None of these people could be found here today for comment.

A crowd of 170,000 is a good Sunday turnout, but far below the 300,000 who have crowded the beach on holiday weekends. And more people were sunning themselves than swimming.

Judging from the relatively low number of people who bobbed in the breakers here, the policemen in helicopters and the launches seemed to provide adequate protection,

at least until the water gets warmer.

The water temperature stood at 62 degrees today and none but the hardiest seemed interested in bathing. Most of these appeared to be children.

"I've been here every day for two weeks and I haven't gotten wet yet," explained Jane Edelman, an 18-year-old student from Mineola. "I don't even know anyone who wants to get wet."