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Father Tows 3 Sons 12 Hours, But They Drown During Swim

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EDGARTOWN, Mass., Oct. 10 (UPI)—A 41-year-old man, towing his three deadsons, reached shore today after swimming through the night in stormy seas when his boat sank off Chappaquiddick Island. The man's father also died.

The police said that the boys' father, George J. Jaeger of Oak Bluffs on the island of Martha's Vineyard, had tied his sons together at their waists with a rope connected to his body and swam up to 12 hours to reach shore.

The authorities said the father had become unconscious when he reached the beach at Chappaquiddick Island shortly after dawn. He regained consciousness about an hour later and struggled to a nearby home seeking help.

Three policemen went to the beach and found the boys — Bruce, 15; Robert, 11, and Clifford, 10—tied together and lying on the beach. All were wearing life-preservers. A medical examiner said they had been dead for several hours.

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The younger Mr. Jaeger, who moved his family to Martha's Vineyard from Brookfield, N. H., last June to become manager of a housing development, was taken to Martha's Vineyard Hospital where doctors said he was in "very good" condition.

Dr. David Rappoport said the father had "apparently put pre servers on the boys, tied them together and then tried to pull them ashore with a rope. "But I understand that the boys kept slipping under and falling asleep," he said.

The family had gone on a fishing trip yesterday on their 30-foot cabin cruiser. Mr. Jaeger told the police "we were steam ing along all right" last eve ning when the boat suddenly began to sink.

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