



Lockmen Curtail Possible SUICIDE Attempt

Lockmaster Roger Harroun, Locks and Dam 14, contributed to this article

On the afternoon of March 27, Locks and Dam 14 received a call from Esterdahl's Funeral Home in Moline. They had received a call from a woman requesting Locks and Dam 14's phone number.

According to Esterdahl's the woman asked them what would happen to a person's body in the river, wondering if the fish would eat it.

Esterdahl's expressed concerns that the woman was potentially suicidal and might contact the lock later that day.

Locks and Dam 14 contacted the Rock Island County and Scott County Police Departments to advise them of the situation. They also told the second-shift crew about the situation.

During the second shift, the woman called the lock and asked the same questions she had asked Esterdahls.

Lockman, Keith Bloomer, talked with her for a half-hour and attempted to get details about her.

Bloomer told the woman he would call someone else to find out what would happen to a body in the river and

had the woman call him back a few minutes later.

After he hung up, he called the police to tell them what was going on. The woman called back and asked Bloomer what he had found out and asked whom he had talked with to get the information.

He did not tell her he had been talking to police, so he told her he had talked to the Department of Natural Resources. He gave the police phone number to her and told her to call them to find out about the fish.

While Bloomer was talking with the woman, Rod Bourne, Operations Division, called the police and told them that the woman was going to call them, thinking they were the DNR.

Later that evening, the police called and reported that the woman had called them and that they kept her on the line long enough to find out where she was located.

"The police then reported that they picked her up," said Lockmaster Roger Harroun, Locks and Dam 14. "They

thanked the crew for coming up with the idea for using the DNR mimic and said it was a great idea. They also said the woman really believed she was talking to the DNR."

Deputy Randy Heisch, Rock Island County Police Department, picked up the individual.

"When we went to pick her up, we were able to convince her that she needed to talk to someone," Heisch said. "Her moods changed by the minute ... she was happy, she was sad, and then she was happy again. She also muttered, 'I wish I could get this all over with.'"

"It was good that the lock and dam let us know about this, because she may have done something to herself," he said. "They did the right thing in referring her to us." 🇺🇸

Suicide Resources on the 'Net

www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention
www.afsp.org
www.suicidology.org
www.save.org
www.spanusa.org

