

Fuquay Springs Man Rescued After Thirteen Hours In Well Will Recover From Adventure

Brought Out After Mid- night As Result of Desper- ate Work on the Part of Hundreds of Neighbors

MENTAL AGONY WORST

Hours Seemed Years to Im- prisoned Man; Thoughts of Family and Friends Were His Chief Comfort

By CHARES J. PARKER

Stephens Home, Chatham Coun-
ty, Mar. 16.—(AP)—Jeff Ash-
worth is resting comfortably in bed
today not seriously injured after a
hair-raising experience in a living
tomb which lasted for 13 hours.

The experience was more gruel-
ing as a mental agony because he
had followed the details of the
trapping in a cave and the
subsequent death of Floyd Collins.

He retained consciousness
throughout that time.

Ashworth's prison, four miles
from here, was a fifty-five foot
well, in which he was trapped by
falling earth and stones forty feet
under ground.

He had entered for the purpose
of cleaning it out about 11 o'clock
yesterday morning, and was being
lowered to the bottom by a rope
and a noose operated by a wind-
lass.

The rope was still paying out,
when without warning the sides
of the rock structure suddenly
caved in. A cloud of dust arose
from the opening.

Then silence.

Although there was no other
thought than that the unfortun-
ate man had been either instantly
killed or would inevitably die of
suffocation, the men in charge of
the windlass hastily summoned
help and commenced a strenuous
effort at rescue.

As they worked feverishly re-
moving the dirt and stone and
other debris, they were after a
while rewarded by hearing muffled
cries.

"Help!" They could hear the
imprisoned man crying. "Help,
I'm burning up!"

Around midnight Ashworth was
lifted from his underground trap.
He was bruised about the head
and his feet had been crushed and
pinched, but otherwise he was in
remarkably good physical condi-
tion.

Dr. Benjamin W. Burt, who
gave first aid, now says that he
will almost certainly recover, de-
spite the effect of having been
long without sufficient air and of
the shock.

The Ashworth lives to tell the
story and to experience all the
emotions he had attributed in im-
agination to Floyd Collins in de-
scending to the well.

The fact that in the fall of the
well-sides, the rocks with which
they were lined caught and
jammed in an arch which sup-
ported a portion of the debris.

This circumstance gave the im-
prisoned man a morsel of space and
a limited amount of air. He suf-
fered acutely, but kept his
strength to the end in a truly
wonderful degree, the doctors
say.

Fuquay Springs, N. C., Mar. 16.
(AP)—Jeff Ashworth, who was
planned to be lowered into a 70-foot
well for 13 hours straight, will
recover from the shock, doctors
said today.

Ashworth was rescued early to-
day.

Several doctors went to his
home about 8 o'clock this morn-
ing after word from his home
told of his having rested easily for
the last five hours.

When the rescuing party pulled
Ashworth out, he was exhausted
but apparently shocked and worn
as the total sum of his experience
so they carried him home where
he stretched out in normal com-
fort once more to recover from
the 13-hour mental strain and
worry.

No outward physical injury was
expressed by him in the few words
of thankfulness he mumbled.

He had read of Collins and the
Kentucky cave-in, he said, just be-
fore he dropped off to sleep in ex-
haustion as dawn streaked the sky
but his consolation was, he said,
that he could talk with his com-
panions in rescue above him, all
the time of his 13 hour plight.

Early yesterday morning Ash-
worth went down the well to clean
it out. He was being lowered in
a loop to the bottom 70 feet down.
When he reached 40 feet down,
a good part of the well-sides be-
tween the top and where he hung sus-
pended caved in and the stones for-
mated a sudden immediate roof
over his head, cutting off sunlight
and air.

Lack of air circulation was
what the doctors, working on him
this morning, said they feared as
the greatest possible adverse cir-
cumstance to his recovery or pos-
sible later complications in his
lungs.

A curious crowd soon became
concerned and all hands volun-
teered into removing of the rock
curb. The work became desper-
ately in earnest. J. D. McIver, lo-

JEFF TELLS HIS OWN STORY

By JEFF ASHWORTH

Stephens Home, Chatham Coun-
ty, Mar. 16.—(AP)—Thirteen at-
tempts by my unlucky number but
I think it's lucky now. I'm lucky
to get out.

For a time I thought I was
falling into the arms of Floyd Col-
lins.

My friends find that I did not
die because the rocks, which lined
the sides of my living grave 40
feet under the ground, caught and
jammed in an arch which was sup-
ported by my head and stooped
shoulders.

I went down in the well of Os-
car Stephens, four miles from
here, about a year ago it seems,
but they tell me it was only yes-
terday noon.

I was lowered by a rope and in-
tended to get to the 55 foot bot-
tom. There was plenty of room,
the well is eight feet wide. About
40 feet down, I heard a crash as
of doom's day. The sky disap-
peared. The stone arch appeared,
this I knew by the rock on my
head, and the falling debris. Then
my blinded eyes, sense of pressure
on head and shoulders, were for-
gotten.

The worst of the agony set in
I breathed deep for air, deeper
and deeper, but the air all day
and night got thinner and thinner.
I thought it was fear but it was
partly a flash of what had oc-
curred to Floyd Collins in Ken-
tucky and actually the thin air.
The doctors say it was both.

Then I felt awfully much alone.
I thought how deep down I was.
I thought of unpleasant things, but
back of my mind was the thought
that I was a man and had friends
working for me above, trying to
get me out. I called back up there
and felt better.

Bye and bye, it got hot. The
rocks and dirt cramped me. I got
hungry.

"Help me, I'm burning up," I
called again and again.

Then I prayed that I might
lose consciousness—but I stayed
on, years and years it
seems. In my imagination I ex-
perienced the emotions of death,
merely outwardly but the thought
of my family, my friends, my
religion held me together.

Then they reached me and I re-
laxed with exhaustion. Strange,
when I was rescued I shivered the
most, felt physically the worst, the
reaction I expect.

Yep, ready for work as soon as
I rest up.

Dr. Spencer Freed In Assault Case After Hearing

Camden, Mar. 16.—Dr. J. R. Spencer and Captain Harry B. Ward, charged technically with assault in connection with a visit to the home of C. H. Edmonds, South Mills barber, in February, 1926, were found not guilty by a jury in Camden County Superior Court early yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Spencer and Captain Ward
went to Edmonds' home, accord-
ing to the evidence, to demand
that he apologize for certain re-
marks he had made with refer-
ence to the physician. Edmonds
charged that Dr. Spencer threat-
ened him with a chair. Both the
doctor and Captain Ward denied
the allegation.

The two defendants in the case
alleged that the prosecution
against them was prompted by
spite on the part of certain re-
sidents of the South Mills commu-
nity whose names were not di-
vulged.

Rum-Chasers Ply Carolina Waters

New Bern, Mar. 16.—(AP)— The Pamlico unit, four Govern- ment rum-chasers, today plied the Carolina coast waters, engaged to prevent smuggling of whiskey in- to the inland.

The commanding the Pamlico,
commanding the fleet of the
Coast Guard cutters, will remain
on duty until further orders. Ev-
ery possible effort will be made to
break up liquor traffic, he added.

Federal prohibition agents are
also engaged in this section in a
crusade against rum runners and
manufacturers.

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on duty until further orders. Ev-
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break up liquor traffic, he added.

FORSYTHE CASE NOT BEGIN TILL THURSDAY

Smithfield, March 16.—(AP)— Trial of Robert Separk, Robert Stephenson, of Raleigh, and Evelyn Britt, Durham girl, on charge of murder in connection with the mysterious death last Novem- ber of L. G. "Mighty" Forsythe, alleged Raleigh rumrunner, will not begin before tomorrow.

Attorneys in the case were so
advised this morning. The John-
ston county Superior Court, where
the trial will be held, had another
case ahead of the Forsythe case.

cal citizen, took charge.

Three men got down into the
well, working like beavers, remov-
ing stones. Bucket after bucket
shot out of the dark cavity. Four
men were operating the windlass.
They worked in shifts and relay
of rescuers relieved relay.

Night came on. Toward mid-
night half a hundred persons still
remained at the wellside. Ash-
worth's voice came up clear but
growing fainter from day to
night. Dirt, he kept saying, was
falling through the crevices be-
tween the stones.

Shortly after midnight, amid a
tumble of stones and dirt covering
his pinned-in body, they reached
him and pulled him out.

Some of the groups offered up
voluntary prayer in the early
morning air and a few companions
carried Ashworth home.

Today the town hopefully
awaited word of his rapid recov-
ery.

Debaters To Argue About Curtis-Reed Education Bill

The high school debaters in 225 high schools are now making preparations for the annual spring debates of the High School De- bating Union of North Carolina.

The triangular debates will be
held over the State on April 1,
and the final contest for the Ay-
cock Memorial Cup will be held at
Chapel Hill on April 14 and 15.

The query which will be dis-
cussed this year by the high
schools holding membership in the
High School Debating Union is:

"Resolved, That Congress should
enact the Curtis-Reed Bill, pro-
viding for a Federal Department
of Education."

The High School Debating Union
is conducted under the aus-
pices of the Dialectic and Philan-
thropic Societies and the Univer-
sity Extension Division of the
University of North Carolina. The
high schools have been grouped
in triangles or pairs for the de-
bates on April 1. The schools
which win both of their debates
at this time will send their speak-
ers to the University to compete
on April 14 and 15 in the final
contest for the Aycock Memorial
Cup, the trophy which has been
presented to the High School De-
bating Union by the Carolina in-
ter-collegiate debaters.

Since the High School Debating
Union was inaugurated, the fol-
lowing high schools have won the
award of the Aycock Memorial
Cup: Pleasant Garden school,
1913; Winston-Salem high school,
1914; Wilson high school, 1915;
Graham high school, 1916;
Waynesville high school, 1917;
Wilson high school, 1918; Dur-
ham high school, 1919; Asheville
high school, 1920; Durham high
school, 1921; Durham high
school, 1922; Elizabeth City high
school, 1923; Wilson high school,
1924; Wilson high school, 1925;
Winston-Salem high school, 1926.

Senator King Will Not Enter Haiti

Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep- ublic, Mar. 16.—(AP)—Senator William H. King of Utah will not attempt to enter Haiti whose gov- ernment has decided against ad- mitting him into the country. The Senator made this announcement today upon his arrival here from Porto Rico.

Senator King said his decision
not to go to Haiti agreed with the
attainment of the United States
Government.

He fears that his presence in
Haiti might provoke trouble, and
he wishes to avoid any untoward
incidents in a friendly country.

Four Meet Death In Gas Explosion

Amarillo, Tex., Mar. 16.—(AP)— Four men were burned to death today in an explosion of gas at a gasoline absorption plant one mile west of Shamrock. The dead were all of Shamrock.

The plant, being erected by the
Columbian Gasoline Corporation,
suddenly burst into flames with-
out warning, trapping the work-
men, two of whom were inside the
large absorption units and two on
ladders on the outside. Those on
the outside were hurled 50 feet to
the ground, their clothing in
flames. The bodies of the others
were removed from the bottom of
the gas chambers.

Shanghai Defender Offer Retire For Sum of Money

London, Mar. 16.—(AP)— With the Nationalist forces in China keeping up their struggle to isolate the Nanking position from Shanghai, comes a report from Shanghai that General Chiang Kaishang, the Shanghai defender, has offered to retire for a large sum of money, considered to be adequate to the terrain he holds and thus save the region from be- coming a zone of actual hostil- ties.

Chiang desires about \$5,000,000
for retiring into the province of
Klanasay, says a dispatch to the
Westminster Gazette. If the
amount is not forthcoming, he
asserted, he intends, if necessary,
to retreat upon Shanghai itself.
According to the correspondent
the Chinese merchants in Shan-
ghai are unable or unwilling to
raise the sum demanded.

Preparations have been made
in Nanking to remove the women
and children there.

A promise has been made by
General Ho Ying-Yin, Nationalist
commander in the province of
Chekiang, that he will not at-
tempt by force to take the inter-
national settlement in Shanghai,
says another dispatch to the West-
minster Gazette.

Shanghai, Mar. 16.—(AP)—
One hundred and fifty special
picked and trained agitators, who
arrived in batches from Hainan
Island, apparently have commande-
ered the good graces of the local
labor unions. They are said to be
conducting a campaign for intimi-
dation and murder with the ob-
ject of insuring a solid and prom-
ising response for a general strike
when the call is issued.

Prisoners in the County Jail ar-
riving better these days, from the
standpoint of both comfort and
sanitation, than they have had
many moons. The jail has been
whitewashed inside, and cleaned
thoroughly. New mattresses have
been provided for the inmates, and
clean slips for them are furnished
each week.

The second story of the jail, in-
front, has been fitted up as a de-
partment for juvenile prisoners
and women, with a brand new
stove installed, and other com-
forts. There are no prisoners in
that department at present. In
the cases in the rear of the jail
arrived 14 colored prisoners, the total
population of the place at present.

Outdoors, the fence at the
south end of the jail property is
being rebuilt and other improve-
ments are under way.

Most noticeable of all among
the improvements, from the stand-
point of one who has visited
prisons in jail at one time or an-
other, is the absence of objection-
able odor about the premises.

Sheriff Charles Carmine declares
he is determined to keep the jail
here in as sanitary condition as
possible, though keeping it clean
is not the easiest matter in the
world.

Sink Finds Murder In His Back Yard

Raleigh, Mar. 16.—(AP)—No inquest into the death of the ne- gro woman, whose decomposed body was found in Garden Com- missioner Hoyle Sink's servant house, was held today.

Coroner Waring deemed it un-
necessary as indications, he said,
pointed to a case of murder.

A warrant charging the death
of the woman to her alleged hus-
band, William Dorroh, was issued
today.

William Dorroh, ex-convict who
served 11 years of a 20-year sen-
tence for slaying a negro woman
in Richmond County in 1916, was
last seen Saturday when he was
porter of the Sink home here. He
was being sought by city and
county officers today. Rewards
will be offered for his arrest.

The body of the woman was
found late yesterday by Mr. Sink
in the negro man's room adjoining
the house garage. The head
had been crushed, the coroner be-
lieved, with some heavy wooden
instrument.

Illness of Attorney P. W. McMullan, of Counsel for Propounders, Prevents Trial of Case

Camden, Mar. 16.—Disappoint- ment was the lot of some hun- dreds of courtroom spectators in Camden Superior Court today in anticipation of the opening of an action in which the will of the late George H. Riggs, of South Mills township, is being contested.

The case had been set promp-
tly for trial Wednesday, and a
special venire of 25 had been
called for it, but it was continued
at the opening of court upon an
announcement that P. W. McMullan,
of Elizabeth City, a member of
counsel for the propounders, was
ill.

In advancing it to the next
term of Camden Superior Court,
Judge P. A. Daniels placed the
Riggs case first on the civil docket.
The case had attracted wide-
spread attention in Camden Coun-
ty, largely by reason of the con-
tentions of the executors, who
hold that at the time the will was
drawn, Mr. Riggs was of insuffi-
cient mental capacity and was in-
fluenced unduly.

But Riggs died some four years
ago, leaving the bulk of an estate
of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to a ne-
phew, G. F. Riggs, who lived with
him much as a son. The elder
Riggs was childless. A score or
more of nephews, nieces and
cousins are seeking to break the will.

Besides Mr. McMullan and his
law partner, J. Henry LeRoy, Jr.,
the propounders are represented
by Attorney W. L. Hainstead,
of South Mills, Ehringhaus & Hall,
of this city, and Attorney S. M.
Brandt, of Norfolk, are appearing
for the executors.

With the Riggs case disposed of
by continuing the docket to the
next term of Camden Court re-
solved itself into a series of rel-
atively minor damage actions,
claims for judgment, and the like,
holding few elements of interest
for the general public. The crowd
on hand began to dwindle rapidly
after the will case was continued.

Mr. McMullan was confined to
his home today with an attack of
grippe, brought on largely by
the fact that for several days he
has been almost constantly at the
bedside of his son, Grace McMul-
lan, now of Durham. The younger
McMullan caught cold while
on his way to visit his parents
after having had his tonsils re-
moved, and is still ill.

Confession Clears Up Big Robberies

Pittsburgh, Mar. 16.—(AP)— Three sensational payroll holdups in this district, including the bombing of an armored auto- mobile last week, when a hand- cuffed man was shot, were cleared up this afternoon, District Attorney Samuel H. Gardner said, when he made public a confession by Joe Jaworski.

After leading county detectives
to a farm near Bentleyville, last
night, where the officers recov-
ered \$30,000 of the loot from the
armored car, Jaworski today
cleared up the district attorney
George W. Murray, chief of county
detectives. According to officers
the suspect said he was willing to
talk.

When Gardner came from the
room where he talked with Jaw-
orski, he said the man had con-
fessed that the bandit gang of five
members, was responsible for the
Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Com-
pany holdup Friday, and that he
knew the payroll man who was
gang staged two Christmas pay-
roll robberies, getting away with
a total of \$69,999. In one of
these holdups a guard was killed.

Rotary Convention At Greensboro Next

Wilmington, Mar. 16.—(AP)— Luther Hodges of the Leaksville Spray Club was elected district governor of the 57th district of Rotary Clubs today.

In July he will succeed S. Wade
Marr of Raleigh. The district
takes in part of North Carolina,
Virginia and South Carolina.

Greensboro was selected for the
next conference city, subject to the
approval of the executive com-
mittee of the district.

FIREMEN RECEIVE \$25

Fire Chief Jerome Flora an- nounced appreciatively the re- ceipt of a check for \$25 from D. M. Jones and Company to the Fire Department as a token of recognition of the work of the de- partment in protecting the hard- ware store from damage during the fire which recently gutted the store of C. B. Toss and Company.

They called young Leopold
from his prison duties and put
him through a severe interroga-
tion and at the end of it an-
nounced they were satisfied the
young slayer of little Bobbie
Franks had nothing to do with any
of the plots.

RIGGS WILL CASE Wilson Speaks To CONTINUED FROM PRESENT DOCKET

Wilson Speaks To Kiwanians Upon The Assembly

But Justice Clarkson De- fines Law as "Common Sense" and Says Board of Education Lacking

CAN RIDE IN BUS

Child Had Been Expelled from Consolidated School Because Not Technically Right Distance to Ride

Raleigh, Mar. 16.—(AP)—A little crippled girl today ex- posed the learned justices of the State Supreme Court to differ on a definition of law in the abstract.

Four of them said that the
girl's father was not entitled to a
mandamus to force the board of
education of Gates county to al-
low the girl to ride in the truck
that hauls the other boys and
girls to school.

One of them, Justice Clarkson,
defined "law" as "commonsense"
and in a dissenting opinion de-
clared that the fact that the fa-
ther of the girl lived just 50 yards
less than two and one-half miles
from the consolidated school
should not be a legal bar to her
attendance.

Evidence in the case was that
Ruth Hayes, a cripple, was ex-
pelled from the Gates county con-
solidated school because she in-
sisted on riding in the school au-
tobus, which was provided by the
board of education to bring chil-
dren to school who lived more than
two and one-half miles from the
school. Her sister, Lois, aged six,
was expelled for the same reason.

Their father sought a manda-
mus to compel the board of edu-
cation to reinstate them in school
and to allow them to ride in the
school bus. He pleaded that his
child lived just 50 yards inside the two
and one-half mile limit.

In his dissenting opinion Jus-
tice Clarkson says:

"Law is considered the perfec-
tion of reason and founded on jus-
tice and common sense. In this
case there is no reason, justice or
common sense in the conduct of
the defendants, the board of edu-
cation, in regards to this cripple
girl."

With reference to free sewer-
age for Elizabeth City, Mr. Wilson
stated that he and Senator P. H.
Williams agreed there should be
some change from the present sys-
tem, whereby "a washerwoman
living in a humble section of the
city would pay as much as the
new Virginia Dare Hotel," but
that they decided the adjustment
of rates should be left with the
Utilities Commission, and put
through a bill accordingly.

At that measure had passed, Mr.
Wilson explained, it would have
meant that in all probability the
State's credit would have been
pledged to a degree which would
have made impossible further ma-
jor bond issues two years hence.

The Assembly, he said, held in
the proposition that whatever gas
tax was levied in the State should
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Lieutenant Ickes Killed By Autoist Who Steps On Gas

Atlanta, Mar. 16.—(AP)— Lieutenant Waldo S. Ickes, 35, of the United States Army, was killed here today by an automobile as he was crossing in front of Peach- tree street.

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his home today with an attack of
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LEOPOLD EXONERATED OF ALL COMPLICITY

John, Ill., Mar. 16.—