

# ***Youth Trapped in Cavern Rescued After 17 Hours***

**By The United Press.**

**McMINNVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 29**—National Guardsmen, passing along a stretcher on their hands and knees, today rescued 17-year-old Don Ball, Nashville high school football star, after a tortuous five-mile underground trip from the fifty-foot pit into which he toppled yesterday.

Ball was reported in critical condition late today with head and leg injuries and the possibility of a pneumonia complication due to his seventeen hours' exposure in Higgenbottom Cavern. The cave opens into a mountainside that is roughly part of the same Cumberland Mountain chain extending into southern Kentucky where Floyd Collins died after a celebrated rescue attempt almost twenty-six years ago.

William Greer, a 125-pound volunteer, was lowered into the chasm deep inside the cave to tie a rope around Ball so the Guardsmen could haul his limp body to the cavern floor.

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