

Rescue Tiny Boy, 3, Trapped for Hours In Texas Well Pipe

AUSTIN, Tex., Oct. 28.—(AP) —A 3-year-old boy fell 14 feet down a narrow shaft of an abandoned well and was rescued alive three hours later.

Hospital attendants said his condition was good.

Bobby Gow, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Gow of Austin, toppled into the 10-inch shaft about 2:48 P. M. while playing. A 12-year-old playmate saw him fall and spread the alarm.

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HIS RESCUE came at 5:42 P. M. after three steam shovels, compressed air hammers and volunteer pick and shovel workers tore away the earth from the 20-foot hole.

A fireman and a gas company employe pulled the lad from a hole cut into the side of the metal pipe that had held him captive.

A crowd of about 2,000 persons was held back by police ropes. They cheered and clapped their hands as they caught sight of the tiny boy. He was immediately placed on a stretcher and rushed to a hospital, accompanied by his mother and a physician.

BOBBY'S sister, Peggy, 12, excitedly told how her brother had fallen:

"Mother sent me out to get him and I saw his head go down the hole."

She said her father had kept the pipe covered with boards and a rock.

An oxygen-line had been run into the shaft soon after Bobby's head was sighted. Then rescuers succeeded in looping a rope about his arm. They were afraid to try pulling him out, believing they might injure him or the rope might slip off.

Neighbors went to work with picks and shovels before firemen and police arrived.

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THREE CHILDREN were playing with Bobby at the time of the accident—Johnny and Jerry Schneider, aged 12 and 7, and Bobby's brother, 8. Johnny carried the alarm to Bobby's mother.

The child's father, a printer at a local publishing firm, stood at the side of the opening of the 20-foot-deep shaft, calming and reassuring his son while rescue work progressed.

Except for the happier ending, the incident was reminiscent of the tragedy of Kathy Fiscus, 3, who died last April after a 98-foot fall down an abandoned well pipe at San Marino, Cal.

Kathy fell into the pipe April

8. Her body was recovered two days later after scores of workers had sunk a shaft parallel to the pipe which imprisoned the child.