

CHILD RESCUE BID FAILS

The eyes of America turn to these rescue operations in San Marino, California. Down this tiny, 14-inch-pipe, an abandoned well-shaft, lies the body of 3-year-old Kathy Fiscus. She fell through the uncovered opening while playing in a field. Rescuers begin digging a giant pit alongside the well. Since Kathy fell (no-one knows how deep) she has been heard only once. Meanwhile, oil-drilling equipment sinks a shaft parallel to the well. This pipe-shaft is temporarily abandoned when drillers strike rock. From the large pit, rescuers cut a window in the well at 57 feet. Gave-ins end this attempt, and work switches back to the pipe shaft. After forty-two hours, the 94-foot mark is reached.

Whitey Blickensderfer, outstanding hero of the rescue bid, is brought up on the verge of exhaustion. Water is now seeping into the well.

By nightfall on the third day, watchers at the surface hear that Kathy's body has been reached. The end of a nation's vigil is near as the Fiscus family doctor, Robert McGulloch, begins the dangerous descent. After nearly 60 hours, her body is recovered. The world salutes a brave endeavour that ends in tragedy.