

NEW YORKWELL DIGGER TRAPPED 26 HOURS: DIES

Dominick Atteo, pinned twenty feet down in a well he was digging under a Brooklyn garage, bravely awaits help. A towel covers his face, seared when a cigarette lowered to ease his agony ignited well gasses - burning and blinding him. His young wife, near collapse, stands helplessly by as rescue workers, endangered by new cave-ins, make agonizingly slow progress to reach the forty-nine-year-old man, buried up to his shoulders under excruciating pressures. The indomitable Atteo, receiving last rites from a priest lowered to him, fights on. Hours later, another priest, heard in an exclusive WOR recording, encourages the weakening man:

SOUND

It is just a few minutes more. Doctor Harold Berson, himself on duty since the accident began, makes his seventh descent. His devotion and skill have helped sustain Atteo during his twenty-seven hour ordeal. The few minutes are up. Doctor Berson tells Mrs. Atteo her husband is dead. Rescue workers reached him even as he died, but his valiant heart had given all it had. The whole nation, which had cheered for him, mourned. Dominick Atteo, a brave man, was dead.