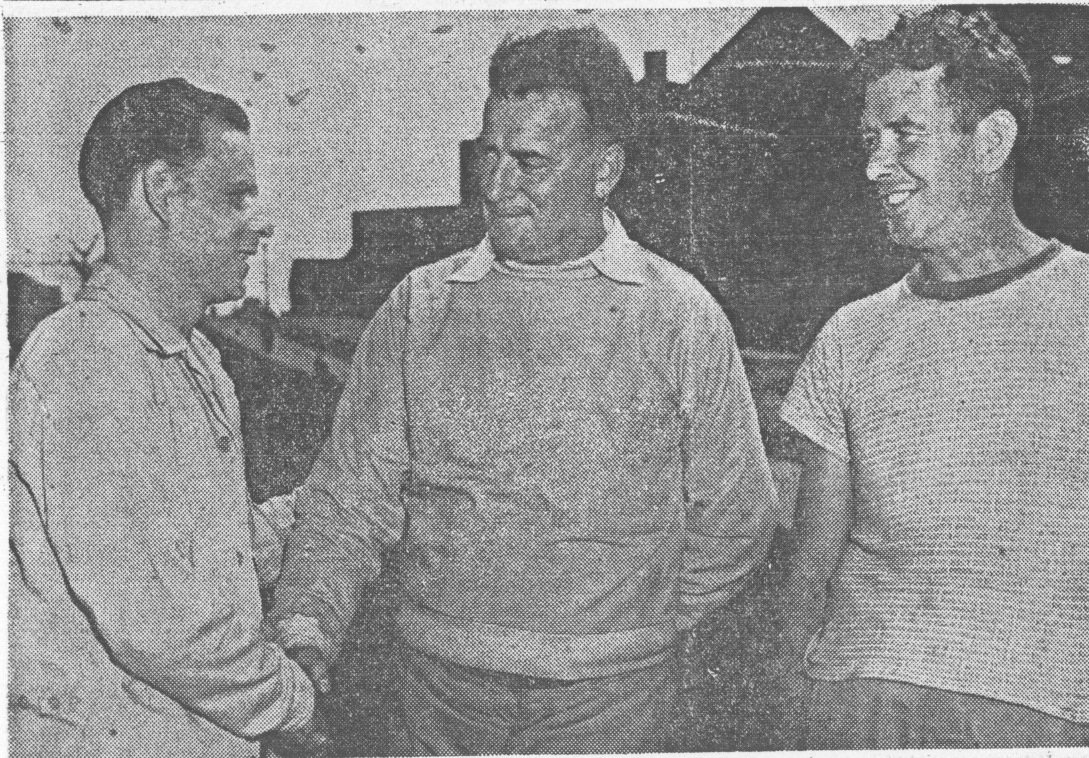


24-Hour Hunt Locates Missing 8-Year-Old



At the Willowbrook State School, Charles King of Long Island City, left, father of the missing 8-year-old boy who was found under a wooden passageway after a 24-hour search, shakes hands with Detective Alfred Kane, who found the lad, while Detective Steve Devlin looks on.

Is Spotted by Detective Beneath School Passageway

By ROBERT J. POPP

Crying and covered with dirt, an 8-year-old patient of Willowbrook State School was pulled from under a wooden passageway on the institution's grounds yesterday afternoon after he had been missing almost 24 hours.

The finding of the youngster by Detective Alfred Kane ended one of the most widespread missing-person searches in Island history—one in which more than 150 men and boys participated.

The youngster, Richard King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles King of 40-07-12th street, Long Island City, was immediately removed to the school infirmary where he was reported in fairly good condition today. Hospital officials said he was unharmed except for bruises he had suffered as he tried to crawl out from under the passageway.

Detectives Re-Check

The hunt for the youngster, which covered an area a mile square, ended abruptly when a party of detectives went over the area again while scores of men were searching nearby woods.

...the searchers...
...the floor of the
passageway and dig under the
boards with their hands.

No sounds were heard at first from Richard, who is unable to talk, and the rescuers feared he might be dead or hurt.

They stopped their digging for seconds in the fear that if he moved he might smother in the dirt being shifted.

Father Near Exhaustion

Afraid that their fears might be communicated to the boy's haggard father, who was standing a short distance away, the police officers started to speak in whispers.

However, all was changed a moment later when one of the men, hearing under the walkway, saw the boy move.

"I think he's alive," the man yelled.

"Let's keep digging," was the reply and everyone worked with redoubled efforts. By this time, school officials brought shovels to the scene and started digging.

Words of encouragement to the mute boy were voiced by the detectives:

"Don't move, sonny."

"You're all right, don't worry."

Attendant Helps

An attendant at the school, James Lowe, who knew the boy, stretched under the passageway and called:

"You're a good boy, King, come over to me."

The frightened child, who suffers from epilepsy, was able to crawl a bit and reach out for Howe's outstretched hand.

He held it and cried until rescuers were able to reach in and pull him free.

The boy, who had wriggled out of his pants and shoes in his frantic (Turn to Page 2)

...the youngster
was found only a few hundred
feet from where the child was last
seen Thursday afternoon when he
was playing with a group of children
outside Building 7.

The detective had been participating in the search 20 hours. The area where the boy was discovered had been searched several times previously but searchers agreed that it was providential that he was found at all.

Presumably, the lad had left the other children and sometime later crawled under the passageway, a covered wooden walk which is a few feet off the ground behind Building 7 but is at the surface of the earth in the rear of the next structure, Building 9.

Hidden By Walls

Richard was in a place where the floor of the passage was less than a foot above the ground and he was hidden from view by walls which extended to the earth's surface.

Kane only saw him by chance when he peered in a place where there was a space between the ground and the boards and spotted the youngster several feet up the passage.

He yelled to Bohan and the news swept through the school grounds. Emergency Squad 10, sought because of the shovels and other equipment it carries, was dragging Willowbrook Pond.