

# Child Here Gets Out of 'Tight Spot'

Little Jan Richard Knight of Gonzales Gardens was probably in the tightest spot yesterday afternoon he will ever be in his life. It took the combined efforts of neighbors and the Columbia fire department to finally free him.

Capt. R. M. Neely of the fire department said the six-year-old became wedged in the metal casing surrounding a water cutoff at the playground of the housing area.

The boy was finally released by digging the casing up and freeing him from the crouched position he had assumed. The captain said the casing was about three feet long and eight inches in diameter. Jan had worked down into the pipe until only a portion of his head was visible.

The captain said the child was playing and slid down in the pipe, becoming wedged in a crouching position. After persons at the scene were unable to free him, the fire department was called and firemen assisted in digging the casing up. It was then removed with Jan still in it. Working through the open end of the pipe the rescuers were able to straighten the boys legs and then pushed him out the way he had entered.

Captain Neely said the child was unable to stand when he was first released from the pipe, but that his only injury appeared to be a skinned knee.

The captain said that only a few inches of the casing protruded above the ground. He also said a chain locking the lid to the casing had been broken.

*The "State"*

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