

Savannah Boy Found Alive After 6-Day Canyon Ordeal

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did not know until his rescue that the second also had perished.
Owens and two others from Savannah, the Rev. Eugene A. Gavigan, 30, and Walter J. Mahany



Associated Press Wirephoto
CANYON LOCATION
Youth Found at Arrow (A)

Jr., 16, hiked into the eastern end of the canyon a week ago Friday to visit an abandoned silver mine.

A search for the trio began Saturday when tourists heard cries for help from deep within the canyon.

Owens told park rangers and a doctor he and his friends became lost Friday night and at first thought they would try to reach the river.

"We changed our minds," he related, "and started back. Father Gavigan tried to climb a cliff Saturday and fell. We saw him fall."

Searchers found the Trappist priest's body Monday at the foot of the 200-foot cliff.

Owens said he and Mahany headed back toward the river but Mahany "got tired and lay down

on a rock to rest."

Owens went ahead.

Searchers found Mahany's body on apparently the same rock Sunday. He had died of exposure and dehydration in temperatures ranging up to 125 degrees.

Owens said he reached the river and, deciding Mahany was not coming, used his belt and pliable plant roots to lash logs together to form a crude raft. Then he started down the river on the raft.

The boy said the raft broke up in rough rapids and "I almost drowned."

ON OPPOSITE SIDE

He said he swam to the north bank of the river but realized he was on the opposite side of the canyon from where the hike had started, so swam back across the turbulent water.

He reached the sandbar, where he said he lay for three days until he was found.

Owens told of drinking river water and eating cactus pulp and beans from a mesquite bush which he soaked in water.

"The cactus tasted horrible," he said.

Upon reaching the hospital at the canyon rim, Owens telephoned his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Owens Jr., in Savannah.

"Daddy," he asked, "guess what I weigh? Only 135 pounds. How can I play football that way? I've been thinking a lot about you, Pop."

Owens' normal weight is 165.

The parents said "It was God's work, truly a miracle" that their son was alive.

FEET BURNED

Owens' feet were burned and calloused from walking on the hot rocks. But he was more concerned about his stomach. In his telephone reunion with his family, he told an aunt, Mrs. William Lloyd:

"I've been thinking of all the good food I used to eat over at your house."

Dr. Daniel B. Beasesen, who examined the youth, told newsmen:

"For a 16-year-old boy, he showed tremendous assurance. His parents can take great pride in him. He is a man now."

The three Georgians started their hike from Desert View, the easternmost of a series of tourist viewpoints maintained by the park service on the Canyon's south rim.

It affords a northeastward view of the pastel rocks and shifting shadows that make the canyon one of the world's most spectacular sights. And it overlooks the old Tanner Trail, a twisting, treacherous path to an area dotted with abandoned silver, lead and zinc mines.

The trio told tourists at the viewpoint they intended to visit an old silver mine. Father Gavigan had explored on an earlier visit to the canyon. They set out down the trail.

Georgia Dad Flies To Son at Canyon

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the country," Mrs. Lloyd said. "You know what it was? It was a miracle. It couldn't have been anything else."

Her voice choked with emotion, she said: "They were going to call off the search within one more minute — and then they found him."

Manson's father said he had attempted to arrange with state officials for an Air National Guard plane to whisk him to his son.

"They said they were sorry, but nothing was available," Owens said. "Seems they were all down in Puerto Rico" (where Gov. Vandiver and Lt. Gov. Byrd are attending the National Governors Conference).

Owens was making the trip to the Grand Canyon by himself. Remaining behind, and making eager plans for a welcome-home celebration, were the youth's stepmother, 32, and the Owens' other youngsters—Ruthie, 11; Lucy, 7; Julie, 3, and Robert, 1.

Rockefeller Son's Girl Sees Pastor

KRISTIANSAND, Norway (AP)—Anne Marie Rasmussen, former Rockefeller housemaid, has asked her pastor's advice about marrying Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's son Steven, the minister said Friday night.

The Rev. Olaf Gaustestad added that no definite wedding plans have been made.

The minister of the Soegne Lutheran church, a friend of the Rasmussen family for years, said: "I have been a constant guest in their home for years and have given them advice and help through the years. It was natural for Anne Marie to ask me for advice about marrying Steven, but no definite marriage plans have been made."

The pastor gave no further details of his talks with the girl.

Steven, 23, and the 21-year-old daughter of a local grocer, arrived here last Sunday night after

His aunt said young Manson originally had been scheduled "to get back home on the day they start football practice."

She said her nephew, who will be a high school junior this fall, "plays tackle on the Benedictine High School team."

"But I doubt if he'll be playing any football this year," she added.

Rev. Gavigan Rites Today At Monastery

Funeral services for the Rev. Eugene A. Gavigan, 30, who died during a Grand Canyon camping trip which also claimed the life of a Savannah youth and resulted in the dramatic rescue of another, will be held Saturday.

Services for the assistant pastor of St. James Catholic Church, Savannah, will be at 10 a.m. in the Trappist Monastery in Conyers.

Father Gavigan was released from cloister at the monastery because of ill health and because the Abbot wanted him to pursue his talent as a sculptor at Notre Dame.

He later took teaching assignments and came to Savannah about ten months ago.

Father Gavigan was still a member of the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists), though he was not cloistered.

He is survived by two brothers, the Rev. Patrick Gavigan, and Philip Gavigan, Racine, Wis.

Slum Clearance Law Challenged in Suit Here

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ginally adopted Jan. 6, 1958, and later revised.

It argued that unless restrain-

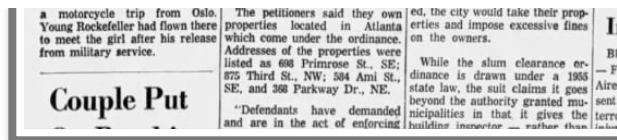
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