

Taking Care of the One He Loved

ON April 3, 1974, a devastating tornado struck Xenia, Ohio, killing 33 people, injuring 1,600 others and destroying 1,300 buildings. Because of the stubborn efforts of Ken Shields, the death toll was not 34.

The twister slammed into the Shield house and totally destroyed it. Slowly Ken dug his way out of the wreckage and then began a methodical search that one-by-one freed his basically uninjured children. When he discovered his wife, Pam, the news was not as good.

Ken found his wife lying helplessly in a pool of her own blood with a piece of wood driven into her neck. Tenderly he picked her up and carried her to the family car to take her to the hospital. But when he got to the car he found that, due to the low air pressure within the tornado, all four tires had exploded. Since this was the woman he loved, he would not be stopped. He gently laid Pam in the car and started out over the debris-laden streets on four flat tires. As the car bucked and bumped along, the tires tore off the rims one-by-one. Desperately trying to keep the car moving, while restraining Pam from removing the wood from her neck, Ken bumped on until a police car stopped him to see why he was driving without tires. Pam was quickly loaded into the cruiser and rushed to the hospital. Her life was saved by the man who loved her too much to be stopped by four flats tires. **Fight on!**

He Kept His Word

IT was a rainy April morning in 1951 when Melvin J. Shadduck's observation plane entered a narrow North Korean valley, never to leave it. The little plane was rocked by small arms fire and, try to save it as he might, Shadduck was forced to crash land, injuring an arm. He was immediately surrounded by Chinese Communist soldiers and taken prisoner. But Shadduck had no intention of remaining a guest of the Chinese Communists. He quickly attempted an escape and was just as quickly recaptured. He was then placed with five other POW's and marched north. They were headed for China. One of the wounded soldiers died on the way. Shadduck knew they might never be released if they crossed into China. (Korean War prisoners who were taken to China were never released when the war ended.) Shadduck was the ranking officer and planned another escape. He promised the other sickly prisoners that if he succeeded he would organize a mission to rescue them. One night he silently slipped out of the camp and moved south, eventually arriving at the Imjin River. Wide and turbulent, it presented quite an obstacle. He followed the northern bank looking for a way to cross and almost walked into a North Korean outpost. He cautiously skirted this and continued on. He found a small boat and attempted a crossing but the wild river drove him back to the northern shore. Suddenly he happened upon a small Korean boy whose family graciously fed him and helped him plan his move south. On the set day, Shadduck and the lad started out and, evading North

Korean patrols, finally ran into United Nations' troops on patrol.

Back at the UN camp, Shadduck informed them of the remaining prisoners and urged an immediate rescue mission. An Army colonel jumped at the idea and soon thereafter an armored assault force moved out with Shadduck as their guide. They crossed enemy lines and assaulted the prison camp, scattering its defenders. Then they called in helicopters to remove those too weak to travel, turned around and headed home with the rest. Melvin Shadduck had kept his word. **Fight on!**

He Couldn't Watch Him Die

FRED West was with a crew that was blasting right-of-ways through Sequoia National Park in August, 1930. A few days into that month, a rock thrown by a dynamite blast struck him in the hip. It appeared that no damage had been done to him.

On August 7, West lit a fuse that would ignite twelve huge explosive charges. Then, as he was about to run to safety, he was suddenly struck with paralysis and fell helpless, directly in the path of the explosions. The next few seconds would be his last. But from a distance, one of West's co-workers, Marvin Murphy, couldn't stand by and watch him die. With the fuse burned beyond reach, Murphy left the safety of his position and sprinted to the helpless man. As the fire reached the charges, Murphy dragged West to the safety of some nearby abutments as 12 blasts resounded. Rocks and rubble pelted the area but West and his rescuer were safe. West recovered from the illness.

Fight on!