

1925-2025

UN AN AVEC HOWARD PHILLIPS LOVECRAFT

#49 | 18 FEVRIER 1925



*1925, musée de la petite ville industrielle de Paterson, New Jersey,  
au moment où James Morton en prend la direction.*

[1925, mercredi 18 février]

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Up late — GK & HP out to Tiffany to meet SL — purchase refreshments — SL rest Boys arr. for meeting at GK's. Kleiner — Morton — Leeds — JFM rest — Klei leave — JFM rejoin — Leeds & JFM leave — talk — retire.

*Levé tard. Avec Kirk au Tiffany pour retrouver Loveman. Jachète des rafraichissements. Loveman aide pour préparatifs réunion chez Kirk. Kleiner, Morton, Leeds. Morton se repose, puis nous rejoint, Kleiner s'en va, puis Leeds et Morton. On parle. Fin.*

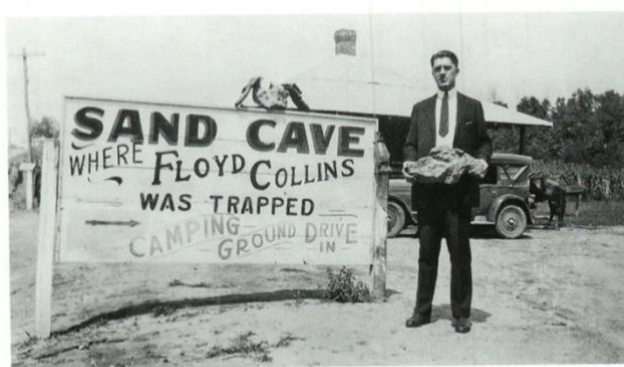
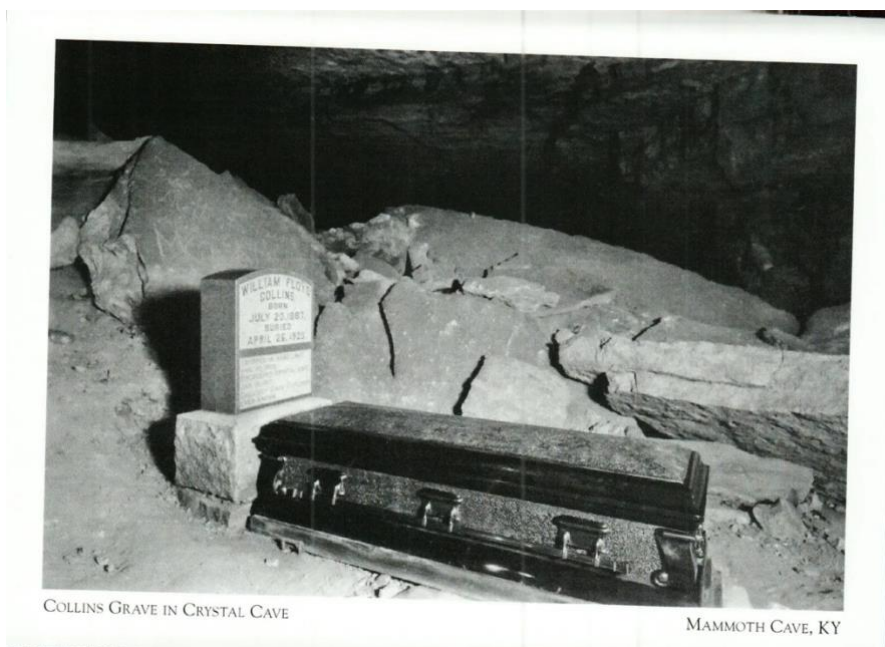
Notons que dans l'article beau et lyrique, mais avec cette austérité toute américaine, qui sera l'adieu du *Times* à Collins, événement national depuis plus de deux semaines, on découvre que ceux qui ont creusé étaient des ouvriers noirs, et qu'ils ont droit — pour la seule et unique fois dans le grand journal de référence — au *black-workers* plus digne que le *negro* urbain systématiquement de mise sinon. Quand ils creusent dans la boue et le froid pour un Blanc, on leur reconnaît un minimum de dignité sémantique, aux Noirs, mais plus tard Lovecraft seul sera le raciste de service. Quel intérêt pour Lovecraft à noter avec une telle précision les déplacements de ses même quatre ou cinq copains : l'importance qu'a à ses yeux, alors qu'aucun d'eux ne dispose de la moindre reconnaissance, leur cénacle littéraire et leurs discussion ? Cette fois on se rassemblera chez Kirk, et dans une lettre quelques mois plus tôt il décrit ce qu'il avait acheté à l'épicerie voisine de petits amuse-gueules et d'orangeade. *New York Times* : non, pas fini avec Floyd Collins, puisque ce sont ses obsèques et qu'on découvre comment son corps appartiendra à jamais à la grotte qu'il a découverte, plus étrange rêve prémonitoire (son frère Omer obtiendra quelques mois plus tard l'exhumation de sa dépouille, et son incinération à l'entrée de la grotte fatale). Premières tentatives de remplacement des locomotives à vapeur par des locomotives diesel (*Crains qu'un jour un train ne t'émeuve* / Plus, Guillaume Apollinaire). Enterrement du jeune policier Hagen tué la semaine dernière dans le Bronx par un « negro » et rémanence du terme. Mesures prises contre l'épidémie de suicides dans le couloir de la mort de Sing Sing. En repensant à l'exemplaire du *New York Times* du 1er septembre 2000 entièrement dactylographié par Kenneth Goldsmith et publié sous la forme d'un livre de quatre cents pages (Day, 2003) : l'inventaire à réaliser de tous les éléments d'information contenus dans le numéro de ce 18 février 1925 et qu'on

ne retiendra pas ? Ce que cela dit par empreinte négative de notre présent, ou pas ?

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*New York Times*, 18 février 1925. Collins enterré à jamais dans sa tombe caverne, service funéraire aujourd'hui pour prier et chanter en accompagnement d'un bref hommage du pasteur, après quoi l'entrée sera scellée. Les voisins ont reconnu le corps, tandis que les médecins font remonter le décès à trois jours : mort de faim. Les forces de secours ont déjà abandonné le camp. Cave City, 17 février. On a renoncé aujourd'hui à enlever le corps de Collins des décombres, après la tenue d'un bref service funéraire dans la grotte de Sand Cave, où les sauveteurs l'ont atteint hier, le 18ème jour de son emprisonnement. La minuscule entrée de la grotte où Collins est mort a été scellée, les tentes des sauveteurs démontées, et la foule est partie. Aujourd'hui, ce camp qui pendant deux semaines a été le théâtre d'une activité fiévreuse, a disparu : c'était aussi calme et sombre au dehors que dans le sarcophage de pierre au-dessous. H T Carmichael, l'ingénieur qui a dirigé les travaux pour atteindre Collins, mit en balance la vie de ses hommes et le danger d'atteindre le corps immobile dans son berceau de roc, là où le moindre coup de marteau pour élargir l'accès pouvait provoquer un nouvel effondrement de plus grande amplitude. Ce matin, avec l'accord de Lee Collins, le père de Floyd, on décida d'y renoncer. Tandis qu'on menait cette discussion, six hommes du jury du coroner, chacun connaissant Collins depuis l'enfance, furent emmenés dans la grotte pour procéder à l'identification. Sur la foi du témoignage des médecins, le jury déclara que Collins était mort de faim et d'hypothermie, et que, pour autant qu'on puisse l'établir, il était mort environ 72 heures avant qu'on le rejoigne. Le service funéraire a été tenu sur la colline, face à l'entrée de la dernière demeure de Collins. Une centaine de personnes se sont tenus tête nue dans le vent gelé agitant des arbres fantomatiques tandis que les pasteurs, depuis une estrade faite de souche de vieux chênes, conduisaient le rituel. Dessoldats, des mineurs, le lieutenant-gouverneur et des habitants impassibles les ont rejoints pour les hymnes dont l'écho s'est dispersé dans les vallées. Le service fut bref. On avait prévu de transférer le corps de Collins dans une des grandes grottes de Crystal Cave, qu'il a découvertes, ou dans un des cimetières des villages autour de Mammouth Cave. Quand il fut avéré qu'on ne pourrait le sortir, des membres de la Croix Rouge, agissant pour le compte de la famille Collins, téléphonèrent au pasteur voisin pour conduire les funérailles sur place. Le révérend Dr C K Dickey, pasteur de l'église méthodique à Horse Cage, et le révérend Roy Beiser, de l'église des Premiers Chrétiens de Cave City se portèrent volontaires. Une groupe de quinze choristes de leurs églises se rassembla devant la grotte à 2 h cet après-midi. Les chanteurs furent regroupés au bout de la route venteuse descendant au tunnel. Des chaises placées face à eux pour Lee Collins et son épouse, Mme Jennie Collins, belle-mère de la victime. Ses frères Homer, Andrew et Marshall étaient parmi la foule disposée en demi-cercle devant les prêtres. La chorale, évidemment nerveuse devant la batterie de caméras et d'appareils-photos qui leur faisaient face, a entamé ses hymnes, dont *Plus près de toi mon dieu*. Tandis que la colline d'en face renvoyait l'écho des chants, les casquettes de trappeurs et les chapeaux noirs disparurent progressivement de la tête des paysans noirs. Et tandis que l'hymne continuait, les chanteurs gagnant en confiance, un par un tous les participants s'y joignirent. Lee Collins, en pull rouge sous un manteau

de l'armée, se tenait le cou droit, totalement immobile sur sa chaise, semblant chercher parmi les ravins en contrebas où reposait son fils. Le docteur qui a examiné le roc tombé sur le pied de Collins, qu'on a dû amputer pour le dégager, ne l'avait pas blessé, seulement emprisonné. « Le jour où il est descendu dans cette grotte, déclara son père, il me dit qu'il en avait pour 4 heures au maximum, mais qu'il craignait cette descente plus que toutes celles qu'il avait faites auparavant, et cela à cause d'un rêve qu'il avait eu la nuit précédente. Il m'a dit qu'il avait rêvé être entré dans cette grotte mais qu'il l'avait trouvée beaucoup plus étendue qu'il ne l'avait envisagé, donnant sur tout un ensemble de magnifiques cavernes. Mais qu'il avait rêvé qu'alors qu'il en revenait un roc géant lui tombait sur le dos et l'écrasait. J'ai essayé de le dissuader de faire cette descente, mais il est parti quand même — sinon il serait avec nous aujourd'hui. »



*La tombe de Floyd Collins restera une attraction touristique  
jusque dans les années 1950.*

## COLLINS LEFT BURIED IN HIS CAVERN TOMB; SIMPLE SERVICE HELD

Prayer, Hymns by Village Singers and Brief Talk by Pastor Are the Farewell.

## THEN ENTRANCE IS SEALED

Neighbors Had Identified Body—Doctors Say He Died Three Days Ago.

## STARVATION WAS CAUSE

Rescue Forces Quickly Depart and the Scene of Two Weeks' Activity Is Deserted.

Special to The New York Times.

CAVE CITY, Ky., Feb. 11.—The attempt to remove the body of Floyd Collins was abandoned today and after simple funeral services he was committed to the grave in Sand Cave to rest exactly as he was found when rescuers reached him yesterday, the eighteenth day of his entombment.

The tiny entry to the cavern where Collins died of starvation three days ago, was sealed, the rescue tents were struck, the crowd left. Tonight the camp, where men toiled feverishly for two weeks, had vanished; it was as quiet and as dark outside as in the stone sarcophagus below.

Last night H. T. Carmichael, the engineer who directed the efforts to reach Collins, pined the lives of his men against the dangers incident to reaching the still figure on the rocky ledge below, as every blow of a lead seeking to widen the opening for the release of the dead man made the danger of a cave-in greater. This morning, with the consent of Lee Collins, father of Floyd, it was decided to give up the endeavor.

When this was determined upon, six men of the coroner's jury, each of whom had known Collins since his boyhood, went down into the cave and positively identified him.

Acting upon the findings of the physicians, the jury reported that Collins had died from starvation and exposure and that, as heavily as it could be established, he had succumbed about seventy-two hours before he was reached.

## Service Arranged in Haste.

The funeral service was held on a hillside, looking down upon the shaft leading to Collins' resting place. About 100 persons stood huddled in the chilling wind coming through the giant-looking trees, as clergymen, mounted on the stumps of big oaks, conducted the rites. Soldiers, miners, a Lieutenant of Collins were there, joining in the hymns they echoed across the ravine.

The service was arranged hastily. It had been planned to have the body of

## RAILROADS TO TRY DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE

Vauclain Believes One Nearing Completion in Baldwin Plant Will Work.

## TO HALVE THE COST OF FUEL

Builder Expects It to Succeed in Certain Special Uses—Others Predict Great Things.

Special to The New York Times.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 11.—A new type of Diesel oil-burning locomotive, designed to burn the cheapest grade of crude oil and reduce the cost of fuel to between 25 and 30 per cent. of the cost of coal for the present steam locomotive, is being developed in the Eddystone plant of the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

President Samuel M. Vauclain confirmed reports that the company was working to adapt the Diesel type of internal combustion engine to locomotive purposes for ten years, and now believed that he was about to produce one "that would work."

Although rumors have been circulated in New York that Baldwin officials expected the new engine to "revolutionize the locomotive industry," Mr. Vauclain disclaimed any such sensational predictions. He said that he would be satisfied if tests and experiments yet to be made proved the oil-burning locomotive practical enough to supplant the steam locomotive for certain special uses, such as on railroads running through long stretches of territory without water, through sections where oil is the only fuel to be used, through places where smoke is a nuisance and on certain kinds of switching jobs.

Mr. Vauclain said there was no doubt about the great saving in fuel costs that would be effected if the new locomotive is perfected, but the cost of production would be such that the initial price of one of the new locomotives would be much more than the current price of a steam locomotive. A final decision on whether the new locomotive is practical, according to Mr. Vauclain, will be reached in a few months.

## Tests Succeeded Thus Far.

He said that it had successfully undergone preliminary "turning over" tests in the Eddystone works about a week ago, and that it would be ready in April for a test to see whether it could pull a load equivalent to a train. In June or July, if the earlier tests are successful, Mr. Vauclain said, the new locomotive might have a final test in action on a real railroad pulling a real train.

Despite Mr. Vauclain's refusal to commit himself as to what the future might bring forth in the possible replacement of the steam engine by the oil-burning type, other persons interested in the project are predicting that the new locomotive will come day entirely or largely supplant the steam engine on the railroads of the country, with a saving of millions in the annual railroad fuel bill and a consequent preservation of

## DETECTIVE HAGEN BURIED WITH HONORS

An "Inspector's" Funeral Given to Sergeant Shot by a Negro While on Duty.

## POLICEMEN THROG CHURCH

His Comrades Form a Guard of Honor to Calvary Cemetery—Hundreds Fill Streets.

Shot to death by a negro thug whom he was placing under arrest, early yesterday morning, Detective Sergeant Chester A. Hagen of the Simpson Street Station, in the Bronx, received the honor of an "Inspector's" funeral at the Church of St. Angela Merici, Morris Avenue and 182d Street, the Bronx, yesterday, where a solemn high mass of requiem was sung, with the Rev. John J. Harrington celebrant, the Rev. Patrick A. MacFarland and the Rev. John J. Mahoney subcelebrants.

Members of the Police Department, formed a large part of the throng in the church, filling the spacious edifice far beyond its seating capacity. Hundreds of fellow-members on the police force, there were hundreds more, who, unable to gain admission to the church, remained outside until the service started on its way to Calvary Cemetery where Hagen's body was interred.

A similar crowd filled the streets in the neighborhood of the detective's late home at 147 Sheridan Avenue, two blocks from the church, during the funeral and police procession left the church at 11 o'clock.

Police Commissioner Richard E. Ennis, who presided at the funeral, said that the marching band of the Police Band, as the body was borne into the Church of St. Angela Merici, the band struck up "Lead Kindly Light," the flag of the nation, the city and the Police Department were lowered and the three platoons of policemen stood rigid at attention.

The honorary pallbearers were six members of the Simpson Street Station's Detective Squad, including Michael Higgins, Hagen's partner, who was with him when he was killed. The others were Thomas A. Nelson, William Jeter, James T. Davis, William Colby and James P. Stapleton. Behind them marched several hundred more detectives, representing almost every precinct in the city, headed by Inspector John D. Connelley.

The official guard of honor, the same that is customarily present at the funeral of an inspector, consisted of four captains, eight lieutenants, twelve sergeants and a company of 120 patrolmen.

Among those present were District Attorney Charles S. McInnis, of the Bronx, Inspector George C. Latham, Chief Inspector William J. Lohrey, Deputy Chief Inspector John O'Brien, First Deputy Commissioner John A. Leahy, Second Deputy Commissioner John M. Shaw, Captain John Evans, in charge of Bronx Detectives, Lieutenant Henry Dwyer of the Simpson Street Station and former Inspector Dominick Henry. Inspector William P. Day personally supervised the funeral arrangements.

Little Katharine, the detective's widow, his father, Arthur, and his brother Joseph were at the funeral. The Police Fire Club sang the mass and William Donohue, tenor, rendered a memorial solo.

## INDICTS NEGRO IN KILLING.

Grand Jury Charges Ernest Minns With Hagen's Murder.

At about the same time that the body of Detective Sergeant Chester A. Hagen was being lowered into a grave at Calvary Cemetery yesterday, the Bronx Grand Jury indicted Ernest Minns, negro truck driver, of 511 East Ninety-

## SUICIDE TIGHTENS DEATH HOUSE WATCH

Additional Precautions at Sing Sing to Prevent Repetition of Ford's Act.

## DEATH HALTED SANITY TEST

Dead Man's Wife, Dying at Her Brother's Home, Not Told of Husband's Deed.

William S. Ford's suicide in the death house at Sing Sing Monday night caused Warden Lewis E. Lawes yesterday to order a strict watch to prevent self-destruction by any of the thirteen men confined there. Mr. Lawes said he would order particular precautions taken by the guards of Joseph and Morris Diamond and John Farina, who were convicted last fall for the murder of two Brooklyn bank messengers and who have been denied an appeal.

The nature of the precautions was not disclosed. Mr. Lawes said he would discuss them at Albany today with James L. Long, Superintendent of Prisons, at a regular meeting of the Prison Wardens of the State and communicate them immediately to the guards at Sing Sing.

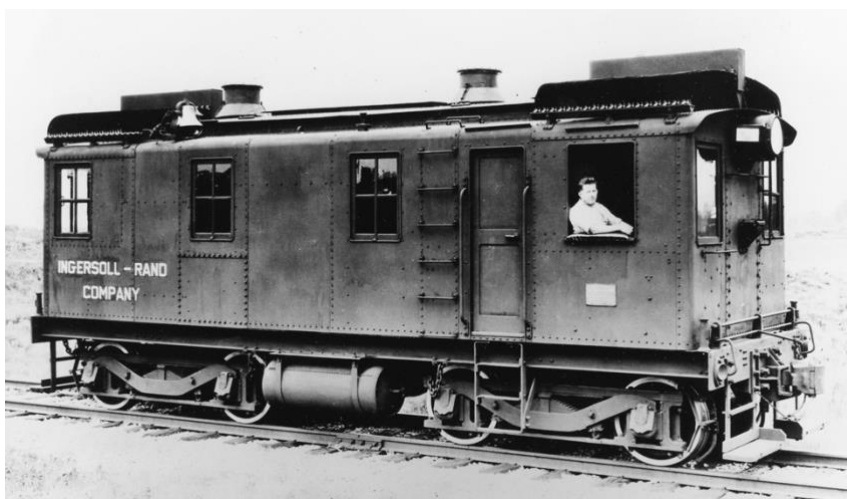
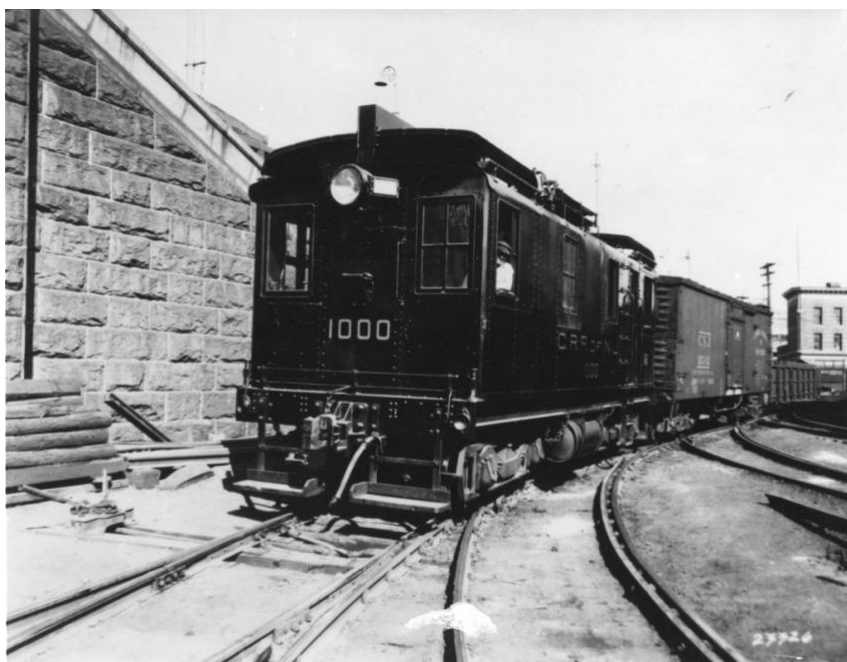
In a formal statement yesterday Mr. Lawes exonerated William Hornett, the keeper who guarded Ford's cell, of any responsibility for the suicide, which the prisoner effected by hanging himself during the two minutes Hornett spent out of sight carrying away the supper dishes. The statement said:

"Nobody is suspended. There is no reason for it. I thought of suspending the guard, but the fact is that when I got there Ford was still alive, which showed the officers was not very negligent. Our precautions ordinarily should have been sufficient. We will put another guard on duty at meal time."

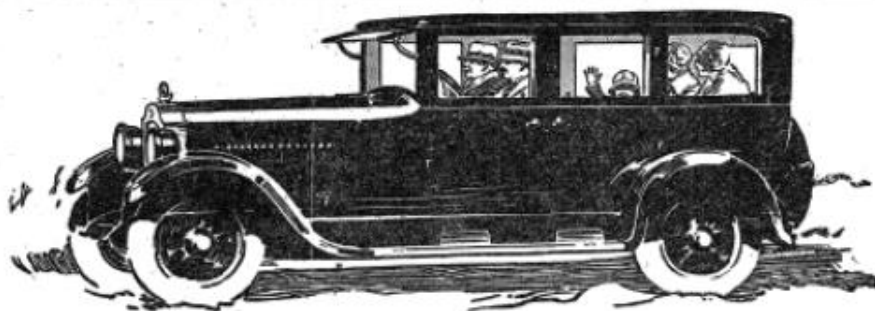
Hornett's inability to enter the cell and cut down Ford's body sooner than he did is attributed to the fact that guards in the death house have not been permitted to carry cell keys since a guard was shot by a prisoner in 1919.

"If the guards have the keys in the corridors," Mr. Lawe said, "there is always the danger of an escape and the possible murder of the keeper. If they do not have them, there is the danger of a suicide. We must choose between two evils and we feel that the risk of suicide is the lesser one."

The Diamonds and Farina, who, as Ford was, have been sentenced to die next month, will be closely watched, Mr.



*1925, la « 1000 », première locomotive diésel.*



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5-Pass. Coach	1235	5-Pass. Sport Roadster	1835	5-Pass. Sedan	2575
3-Pass. Country Club Coupe	1345	5-Pass. Brougham	2750	7-Pass. Sedan	3000
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