

Cat Gives Signal for Fire Rescues Sheffield Family Trapped Upstairs

How a 15-year-old cat saved a family from injury, and probably death, was told to a "Star" reporter to-day by Mrs. J. Heselwood, of 49, Newark Street, Sheffield, Whose home caught fire in the night.

"About' one o'clock," said Mrs. Heselwood "I heard, Jim (the cat) making a queer noise in the living room. He had awakened me by this noise, and I went to investigate.

"I opened the bedroom door, and found the landing and stairs in dense smoke. I tried to go down the stairs but could no get more than halfway because of the heat and I had to go back and call my husband and daughter. Both Jim and Peter (an Alsatian dog) followed me back.

Rescue Thrill

"My husband then finding it impossible to get downstairs climbed through the back bedroom window, in his night clothes, and ran to summon the police and fire brigade.

With the aid of neighbours and police Mr. Heselwood managed to rescue his wife and 17-year-old daughter from the front bedroom window. It is understood that a policeman climbed on the shoulders of another officer and was able to reach Mrs. Heselwood and the girl when they hung onto the bedroom window sill by their hands.

When the daughter, Margaret went through the window and Peter her dog jumped from the bedroom into the road.

The Sheffield Fire Brigade under Superintendent T. Breaks arrived and whilst the fire was being quickly extinguished, the family was taken into neighbour's house.

The flames were confined to the living room. The room was destroyed. There were no personal injuries.

But what has happened to the hero of this event? Jim has not been seen since the family was rescued.