

WITH NECK BROKEN, HE WORKS SIX WEEKS

***Volunteer Fireman, Hurt at Blaze,
Thought He Had Rheumatism
Till X-Ray Disproved It.***

Special to The New York Times.

PATERSON, N. J., July 15.—When Louis Mickens of Riverdale, N. J., came to St. Joseph's Hospital here seeking relief from muscular rheumatism in the neck he learned that for six weeks he had been working with a broken neck. The X-ray tebra, upon which the head turns, tebrae, upon which the head turns, was chipped. Mickens drove to the hospital today in his Ford, had a brace applied which rendered his neck immovable and then drove back home.

Dr. James P. Morrill applied what is known as a "Thomas collar." This is a heavy cast of plaster and metal, which will hold the fractured vertebrae in place until it knits. Dr. Morrill advised Mickens not to attempt to work for at least three weeks.

Mickens was injured at a fire on June 5, when he was struck by a beam while doing his share as a member of the volunteer fire department. He felt a pain for several days, but never dreamed he was doing his regular work with a broken neck.

When Dr. Morrill showed the X-ray plate to Dr. Thomas A. Bingham, his chief and head of the hospital, the latter said, "When did this patient die?"

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LIVES, TO BE UNDERTAKER.

Riverdale Fireman Whose Head-Pivot Was Broken Accepts Quiet Job.

Special to The New York Times.

RIVERDALE, N. J., Aug. 14.—Louis Mickens, a member of the local Board of Health and the local corps of volunteer firemen, who broke the pivot on which his head rests last June 7 while fighting a fire, has astonished doctors here by accepting the post of funeral director for the Edward Richards Company. He will go to work this week.

Mickens spent five weeks in the Paterson General Hospital, his neck and head in a plaster cast. Doctors gave him up for lost, but he surprised them by getting well.

The job Mickens has taken is to be a quiet one. He will merely sit in an office and direct things, for he is not allowed to ride in automobiles and he is not to walk up and down stairs until his neck is strong again.

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RISKS LIFE FOR AUTO RIDE.

Man Whose Neck Was Broken
Ignores Warnings to Stay in Bed.

Special to The New York Times.

RIVERDALE, N. J., Aug. 20.—Residents of Riverdale and surrounding towns were interested today in Louis Mickens's experiment with his own life. Mickens's neck recently was broken in an accident, but a cure that physicians characterized as miraculous was effected and he was discharged from the hospital last week with cautions that it might cost his life to ride in an automobile, walk fast or run up or down stairs. It was suggested that he stay in bed for at least two weeks after his return home.

Mickens became impatient, however, and went back to his job as an undertaker's assistant two days after his discharge from the hospital. Yesterday he became irritated with the restrictions imposed upon him and drove his automobile on the Hudson Turnpike to Newark and back. When he returned he said he felt no ill-effects, but would have his neck examined and X-rayed again to see if he had harmed himself.

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