

Joe R. CANINE

January 31, 1922

Crawfordsville Journal

Word has reached this city that Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. CANINE were in the ill-fated Knickerbocker theater in Washington Saturday night when that large playhouse collapsed killing over 100 persons and injuring scores of others. Joe Canine was formerly a resident of Crawfordsville and is very well known in this city. He and his wife were sitting in the balcony when the crash came and narrowly escaped death. Mr. Canine received a broken arm, while his wife suffered a broken rib and was badly shaken up. In a letter received by Mrs. William WRIGHT of this city, sister of Mr. Canine, the details of their miraculous escape are given.

Canine, while a resident of Crawfordsville, managed a shoe shop. He was originally from Browns Valley. Shortly before the war, he went to Indianapolis where he located for some time. When war was declared he enlisted and was stationed at Hattiesburg, Miss. After receiving his discharge he moved to Washington DC, where he is now a chiropractor.

Dear Mrs. Wright: This is to tell you that Nellie and Joe are safe, and as well as can be expected, with a broken arm and Nelle rather shanken up. Joe's arm is set and getting along all right. Nelle has a broken rib that is all bandaged up in place, her nose is decorated and her upper lip has a little bruise as well as her leg. But they are very fortunate in having escaped so well. Nelle and Joe were sittingn the last row in the balcony in the two end seats. The feature was just beginning when Nelle heard a loud swish and they looked up and saw that the ceiling was splitting. Joe says it was as much like a great tree falling as anything he knows of. The ceiling caught them as they started out. Joe said, "Lie still and they will dug us out. Nelle got a breath of fresh air and they crawled through the crack. Joe's arm was broken but Nelle says that she didn't feel anything much. They managed to get to one of the walls of the theater and climbed over. Nelle says that she is thankful for the training she had when she was a playmate of her brothers for she climbed over the wall like a cat and two young boys helped her get Joe over. The boys were so scared that they couldn't do very much. They climbed down on the other side by clinging to steel rods. There were some stairs on the other side and they managed to get down that way. I think they must have been among the first out of the theater. A taxi was just going by and the driver took them down to Mr. Keblentz's office and he phoned for Dr. Coyley. Nelle and Joe walked back to the house and found that Mrs. Coon had been injured. Nelle

lost her coat, gloves and hat and so did Joe, but perhaps they can be recovered as all were removed to the Christian Science church."

Joe Canine is the son of Jack Canine of this city while his wife is the daughter of Fisher Galey of Browns Valley. The young couple were married about a year ago in Washington. The letter received by Mrs. Wright was written by Katherine Ramsey, a friend of the injured persons. Both Mr. and Mrs. Canine were reported to be recovering from their injuries.

The website management appreciates all the contributions provided for use here.