

AN ABANDONED COLLIERY CAVES IN

Old Workings in the Heart of
the Town of Olyphant
Sink.

FOUR HOUSES DISAPPEAR

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Vicinity Escape Safely, Though in
Mine Near by Workmen Were
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Scranton, Pa., Jan. 5.—Abandoned workings of the Eddy Creek colliery of the Delaware and Hudson company beneath the very heart of the town of Olyphant caved in and engulfed four frame buildings, covering an aggregate ground space of 6,000 square feet.

The settling was gradual, and people in the affected territory escaped safely. A gang of men and boys who were at work in the mine beyond the fall encountered a flooded "dip" or depression in a vein in making their way out by a circuitous route, and had to swim from one rise to the other. No one above or below ground, however, sustained any injury.

At 3 o'clock the settling began. At 3:30 o'clock it was no longer perceptible. A few houses are projecting over the edge of the pit. The vein that caved is 115 feet below the surface.

The settling started in the street just in front of the O'Brien hotel property. The brick pavement was seen to be working and the telegraph poles and trees along the curb were noticed to be wobbling. The cause was at once apparent, and the alarm was given to all the neighborhood. Two sick guests were removed from the hotel and taken two blocks away to a private house. Some attempt was made at saving the contents of the buildings, but the rapidly increasing size of the opening of the street put a stop to this, and everyone fled from the neighborhood.

Twenty minutes after the disturbance was first noticed the opening had widened until it reached all the way across the street and half way beneath the O'Brien hotel. Then, with a terrific crash, the hotel pitched forward, turned completely about, and landed on its roof in the bottom of the abyss. An immense amount of earth from all about the edge of the hotel went down with it, and a moment later the adjoining double dwelling of Mrs. Evan fell over the edge and demolished itself in the ruins of the hotel. The Ackery double store building and the Evans barber shop property slid into the chasm about the same time, and piled themselves, broken and twisted, on the debris.

At nightfall it was believed there would be no further settling.

The workings which caved were in the uppermost part of the worked out veins.

The sink was caused by the bursting of water mains in the mine, the water flushing the foundation from under the bed rock of the surface.

1903 Jan Abandoned colliery fall of
ground

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