

## Teacher Killed in Abandoned Mine

### Prof. Schmitt, Searching for Ore Specimens, Falls Into 250-Foot Pit.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Oct. 29—While conducting his class in minerology through the old Manitou copper mine, about three miles north of Peekskill, Wednesday afternoon, H. C. A. Schmitt, aged 60, a professor in the Hackley School, Tarrytown, slipped into a half-concealed shaft, 250 feet deep, and dropped into a deep pool of water at the bottom. Professional divers were searching the pool all day yesterday and could not find the body.

Prof. Schmitt and other instructors from the Hackley School, accompanied by a party of students, went to Manitou to explore and do research work in and about the mine. The students were to be taken through the mine, and Prof. Schmitt was to deliver a lecture afterward. Several specimens of ore were picked up on

the outside of the mine, and then the party entered the tunnel. Inside there were to be found much more valuable specimens.

No one had been in the mine in years.

The professor preceded his class, and was several feet ahead when he noticed a very desirable piece of ore. He went to pick it out of the side of the mine, but stepped instead into the dark hole. Others in the party rushed to his rescue, but he had tumbled into the pit. Cries could be heard, but nothing could be done to help him.

Prof. Ernest Pierce organized a rescue party, but before a rope that would reach to the surface of the water could be obtained the cries had ceased, and there was nothing but silence and darkness.

Local and state police were notified, and William Delameter, a diver, took charge of the search for the body. The diver worked in the bottom of the shaft all day yesterday, and others operated grappling hooks from the top of the shaft, but nothing but rubbish was raised from the muddy pool.

It is believed that other tunnels radiate from the bottom of the shaft, and that the body had floated into one of these passages.

Prof. Schmitt was a well-known geologist, and his tragic death has caused much sadness at the school, where he taught for many years.

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mine

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