

Bowmans Man Killed In An Abandoned Mine In Vicinity Of His Home

A 43-year-old unemployed Bowmans man was killed Wednesday in an abandoned independent mine located approximately 125 yards northeast of his home.

The body of George Sapiega was discovered at about 10:30 p. m. Wednesday at the bottom of an old mine breast about 164 feet from the ground surface. It is presumed he slipped or fell down the mine slope while mining coal for home consumption.

At 2:00 o'clock this afternoon, the victim's body was wedged against a rib of coal some 110 feet from the surface. Rescue workers have succeeded in hooking the body with a grappling hook and had brought it up some 30 feet before it became wedged.

Sapiega's wife, the former Helen Kutzi, of town, reported her husband missing about 5:00 p. m. Wednesday after he failed to come home for supper. He left his home yesterday morning to go to the mine to fire a few holes in order to get coal for home use.

Friends of the victim, Teddy Butchkowski, Leo Thornton, of town; John Museousky, of Bowmans, and Ben DiCasimirro, of Morea, went looking for Sapiega and at 10:30 o'clock last night his body was discovered lying face-up in a breast of his independent mine by John Turo, town, and Harry Kline, Bowmans.

Pat Igo and John Turo, of town, and Edward Bradbury, of Bowmans, who were working on the slope today in an attempt to bring the body to the surface, said that res-



George J. Sapiega

cue operations were very hazardous due to the straight pitch, falling top and tremendous pressure against timbers.

The abandoned mine is owned by Sapiega and Ralph Mardis, of Lakeside, formerly of town. The operation last worked in March of this year. The mine is part of the old Bowmans workings and is in the seven-foot vein on straight pitch. Prior to opening this coal
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Bowmans—

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hole he had been employed as a bulldozer operator by Carey, Baxter and Kennedy.

Rescue operations are in charge of John B. Reinoehl, state mine inspector, of town. Also at the scene were James Shober, deputy state mine inspector, of Pottsville, and Peter Hino, state mine inspector, of town.

The 63rd Rifle Company, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, of Pottsville, arrived on the accident scene shortly after noon today with parachute harness and other safety equipment. One of the Marine reservists donned the harness and was lowered into the slope but was brought to the surface after a short time because of the danger that existed in the hole. The unit was under the direction of Maj. John J. Donahue, of Pottsville. A lengthy rope ladder is being sought to help in the recovery operation.

Ladders and ropes for the rescue operations were furnished by the Washington Hook and Ladder Fire Co., John Sieck, local paint contractor, and Carey, Baxter and Kennedy, of Jacksons. Other equipment was supplied by the Independent Miners and Associates, who had two mine rescue trucks on the scene from Tremont and Branchdale. The Salvation Army rendered assistance by serving coffee and sandwiches last evening.

Other persons assisting in the rescue work were Harry Blew, Fred Sebastian, Vincent Sherkness, Murph Smith, Harry Wagner, town; Walter and Robert Sherkness, Joseph Kerrick, of Trenton; Paul Stefanick, John Mack, of Bowmans; Paul Motsko, New Boston, and John Kotch, of Buck Mountain.

On duty since the fatal accident was reported was Chief Francis Thornton and Patrolman John Davidock, of the Mahanoy Township police force. State Police from the Mahanoy City barracks were also at the scene.

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