

Youngster Killed In Mine Shaft Fall

SHAMOKIN, Pa. (AP)—Rescuers today found the body of a 12-year-old boy, nearly 10 hours after he plunged down a 550-foot mine shaft while chasing a squirrel with a friend Tuesday night.

The body of Kenneth Shickley Jr. was found at 5:24 a.m. by two miners on top of an old mine buggy on an offset of the shaft, an estimated 450 feet down.

He was hoisted to the top of the shaft shortly before 7 a.m. The miners, John Varano and Joseph Garcia, had to crawl 90 feet along the side of the shaft to reach the boy. They had been lowered into the mine at 3:55 a.m., but on the way down they had to shore sides of the mine shafts to brace rotten timbers.

Kenneth's father, who had been at the rescue scene all night, broke into tears and collapsed when he heard that the boy had been found dead.

"My God, My God," he cried. "Oh God, it's awful."

MANY WEEP

Several of the 100 rescue workers burst into tears when the mangled body of the boy was brought up.

The boy's mother, who had remained at home with five other children in the family, cried: "He's dead, he's down in the hole."

Kenneth fell down the shaft when a step on a ladder broke, authorities said. His friend, Bill Kreiger, also 12, summoned rescuers.

Later Bill told authorities that he and Kenneth had gone to a wooded mountain area not far from their homes to hunt frogs when they noticed a squirrel and chased the animal into the mine shaft. They went in a few feet, Bill related, and started climbing back when a step on the ladder broke. Bill was in front of Ken-

neth on the ladder and made it to safety.

The 100 rescuers immediately began working under floodlights to penetrate the mine shaft.

Joseph Templin, a volunteer fireman from Shamokin was lowered by rope about 300 feet, then pulled out again. He said the timber sidings of the mine shaft were too rotten to risk going lower. Templin said all he could see below him were broken ladders and water at the bottom. Authorities said there was 90 feet of water at the bottom but Kenneth did not touch the water.

Hope Faint For Tot In Mine Trap

GHOST PINE CREEK, Alta. (AP)—Almost no hope was held today for a 4-year-old boy swallowed by the cave-in of an abandoned coal mine as he played 100 yards from his home.

Faint cries of "Daddy, daddy" soon after Kenny Kowalchuk disappeared Tuesday spurred a mine official to make a hazardous descent on the end of a cable 45 feet down the rickety shaft late Tuesday night.

District Mines Inspector J. J. Kubin of Calgary said he found no sign of the chubby, dark-haired boy. Loose earth plugged the 85-foot-deep shaft.

"I have no hope the boy will be found alive," said Kubin.

Kenny, second youngest of the 11 children of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kowalchuk, plunged through a thin crust of earth topping the old shaft while playing with his brother, Johnny, 3, shortly before noon.

1962 May 12 yr old killed in mine shaft fall
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