

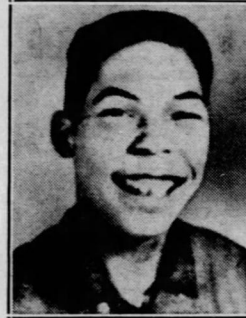
Firemen pump tons of water from iron mine shaft prior to seeking lad's body. (Associated Press photo)



James Van Dunk (right), brother of victim and uncle Harry Van Dunk keep vigil. (UPI photo)

Jersey Mine Tragedy

Volunteers continue grim task of attempting to recover body of Harry Van Dunk, 15, from abandoned Ringwood, N. J., iron mine shaft. Harry and three friends were playing near mouth of mine when rain-softened ground gave way burying him deep. Officials at scene estimated mine depth at 100 feet.



Harry Van Dunk (left) is the victim. Aaron Milligan (right) was one of playmates who escaped. (NEWS photo) (Associated Press photo)

1963-11-12 New York Daily News - Jersey Mine Tragedy - Ringwood Mines Harry Van Dunk

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Teen-Ager Buried In Mine Cave-In

RINGWOOD, N. J. (UPI) —A teen-age boy was buried in a cave-in at an abandoned ore mine Sunday night and rescuers said "there is no chance of him being alive."

Harry Van Dunk, 16, was entombed in a 100-foot deep open pit mine by tons of rock, dirt and water. Volunteers and firemen attempting to reach him were hampered by three subsequent cave-ins.

In view of the quantity of rubble which had fallen on the boy, police gave up hope of finding him alive, but the rescue operation continued.

Police Chief Roy Van Tassel said Van Dunk was playing with three other boys near the edge of the 50-foot wide crater when the ground

gave way and he plunged to the bottom of the water filled shaft.

The others — Aaron, Randall and Garry Milligan— escaped injury although one of them collapsed at the sight of his friend buried alive.

Firemen, mine engineers, civil defense workers and police moved in excavation equipment in an effort to dig out the victim. Van Tassel said the recovery operation was proceeding slowly because of the danger of more cave-ins.

"This is a big operation and there is no telling how long it will take to recover the body," he said.

The mine is located in a desolate area off a dirt road about a quarter mile from the Van Dunk home. Similar abandoned mines, all owned by the Pittsburgh-Pacific Mine Co., Hibbing, Minn., dot the countryside.

The mines have been closed for years but the two-story frame homes once occupied by the miners are still in use.

Van Tassel said the Van Dunk boy had been returning home after delivering newspapers when he met the other three boys at the mine. When the mine collapsed, they ran to the Van Dunk home and notified his foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Gerrity.

At Pompton Plains police headquarters, the radio dispatcher received a frantic call from a woman:

"Please, get the police up here . . . please. There's a boy in the mine hole."

The boy's foster mother, Laurie, was placed under sedation and the parish priest went to the home to comfort her.

Mrs. Barbara Stiles, a nurse and long-time friend of the family, said Mrs. Gerrity had taken custody of the boy when he was two years old after his parents died.

"She never let him hitchhike back and forth from school and wouldn't let him go out for football because she thought he was too small," said Mrs. Stiles.

"He never was known to go near the mine. His mother always told him she didn't want him fooling around on his paper route."

Cool Days Ahead For Oklahomans

Weathermen are predicting cool days with fair skies and no rain for Oklahoma for the next three days. Temperatures are expected to be cooler Monday with highs generally in the 80's through Tuesday.

Three state recording stations reported temperatures in the 80's on Sunday. Ardmore had 83 degrees, McAlester, 81, and Altus had 80.

Oklahoma City had a high of 75 Sunday with Monday's city temperature expected to be about 76.

Nasser's Daughter In 'Foreign' School

CAIRO (AP) — Mona Nasser, daughter of President Gamal Abdel Nasser, has enrolled at the American University of Cairo.

Mona, 17, is brushing up her English at the university's English Language Institute before starting full courses in February, said Tom Bartlett, university president.

TFX Cost Told

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) —Defense Minister Athol Townley announced Sunday Australia will pay about 56 million pounds (\$123 million) for 24 TFX bombers it is purchasing from the United States.