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2 dead prospecting abandoned mine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — David Harp was a fellow down on his luck hoping to strike it rich digging for gold in hills that have been mined since the Oregon gold rush of the 1850s.

But he and his partner paid for their lack of experience with their lives.

Harp, 35, of Merlin, and his

partner, Michael Mayall, 38, of Grants Pass, died Thursday afternoon, apparently overcome by carbon monoxide from a generator they took down the abandoned shaft of the old Tiptop Mine, located in the Siskiyou Mountains eight miles southeast of Cave Junction.

"He's one of those kids who had a rough life growing up," said Harp's brother, Darrel. "He never

really had much going for him. He just scratched at a living.

"When people live like that, they always have contacts. They hear rumors, or ideas. Then they go out to see if they can scratch out a few bucks on them. He got into something he didn't have enough experience in."

Earlier that same day they had gotten their mining claim notarized in Grants Pass.

1995 Aug Two prospectors dead in abandoned mine

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