

Four Rescued After 18 Hours In Old Quarry

EASTON, Pa., May 27 (AP) — A 42-year-old amateur cave explorer, his son and two of the boy's school pals, were rescued unharmed today about 18 hours after they had lost their way in narrow, twisting passages of an abandoned stone quarry.

A state policeman, with searchlight and climbing rope, made his way to the four by tracing their shouts. He led them to safety shortly before midday.

John Pfeiffer, a science writer, his son Tony, 12, and Chris Ingham and Norman Ganter, each 11, huddled through the night in a cramped passage leading from the main grotto a bit beyond the entrance.

Since they had not intended to stay long they had no food and were lightly clothed. They had three flashlights, but by the time trooper John Hahn reached them only one still worked.

By all reports, none suffered any serious effect.

Pfeiffer, who lived in New Hope, Bucks County, about 25 miles from the quarry, said he kept the boys close to him, on the presumption that it was better to await rescue than to risk separation.

He said they tried to sleep but could manage no more than a short spell of uneasy dozing now and then.

"Frankly," he said, "I was scared from the start, but couldn't show it to the boys. They did as much for my morale as I did for theirs.

"Being wise after the event, I shouldn't have gone into the cave, especially with the boys. It was just a darn fool thing to do."