

HE FALLS 400 FEET AND LIVES

Pottsville, Pa., Youth Rescued from Mine Shaft

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Oct. 30.—Falling 400 feet down an abandoned mine shaft, Joseph Schroeder of Pottsville last evening was rescued alive, after he had been virtually buried all day and all hope of his rescue abandoned. When examined it was found Schroeder had not even a broken bone. It was the most extraordinary escape known in the history of anthracite mining.

Young Schroeder left town at 6:30 o'clock in the morning in company with William Kalbach, to shoot pheasants. While pushing their way through the brush toward the mountain top Schroeder took the lead. He walked into a drift, lighted a match, and called to Kalbach to follow. Suddenly he gave a cry of surprise and attempted to step back, but the ground at the edge of a hole gave way with him, and he plunged feet first down into an abyss.

Companion Gets for Help
Kalbach hurried forward and he-
tion, almost plunged down the hole
after his companion. Had he done so
the mystery of their disappearance
probably never would have been
solved.

Being he could be of no aid to his
unfortunate companion, Kalbach
started down the mountain for Middle-
port on the run and in a short time
a dozen men accompanied him back
with long lengths of rope. They went
as close as they possibly could in
safety and called down the shaft.
Nothing but the echo of their voices
greeted them. Then they tied a
weight to the end of a rope and low-
ered it carefully into the black pit. It
struck several times along the side of
the jagged opening, but finally it
was lowered to the full length, but
the bottom had not been reached.

Men were sent back to town for
more rope and when they came back
the attempt was again made, but
again the end of the rope failed to
reach bottom. Messengers were dis-
patched to the collieries at Kaska and
Silver Creek, where experienced
mining men were sent by officials with
a long coil of steel rope. This was
lowered, and although 200 feet of it
was used, the bottom of the shaft
could not be reached. Not a sound
came from the black hole, except the
rattling of the steel rope.

Cries for Help Heard
A loud message were dispatched
for more rope. The boy's father also
arrived, accompanied by several em-
ployees of the shops. One of them,
John Calloway, was lowered into the
opening, and after going down 200
feet he heard cries for help.

Calloway was then hoisted to the
surface, where he related his discov-
ery to the great joy of the boy's
father. Calloway again went into the
shaft, this time at the end of a rope
more than 400 feet long. He found
young Schroeder at the bottom of
the pit and was drawn to the surface
with him. Schroeder was terribly
faded and shaken, but no bones were
broken, and he will recover.

1906 Joseph Schroeder rescued from mine after 400 foot fall



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