

BURIED MINERS SAVED.

Pulled Out Feet Foremost After Being Entombed Fifty Hours.

Salt Lake City, March 11.—After enduring the horrors of an underground prison, with death at their elbows for 50 hours, George and Jerry Peterson were dragged through an 18-inch hole to freedom and safety. They were blindfolded, wrapped in blankets, refreshed with hot coffee and hurried home.

On Monday afternoon the roof of the drain tunnel on the St. Patrick property, four miles east of Murray, gave way and a huge mass of earth blocked the passage 160 feet from its mouth. The Petersons were on the wrong side of the cavein. Warned by previous experience they had with them a long pipe two inches in diameter. They drove this tube through the debris to secure ventilation and undertook to burrow out. Their digging was useless for the loosened earth ran down faster than they could remove it. At supper time they were missed and their predicament was soon learned. Ranchmen and a miner formed a relief party which set to work and labored heroically night and day. Hope grew high as the barricade was reduced to a few feet, only to vanish as fresh masses of shale rumbled down from the insecure roof. The prisoners, although supplied with air through the pipe, were weak from hunger, chilled by the water which rose to their knees and terrified by the constant peril of instant burial.

When the rescuers had removed but two or three feet of the obstruction they were driven back 15 feet by a new earthfall. News of the new danger spread and brought to the rescue work M. M. Johnson, chief engineer of the Newhouse mining staff. Heavy timbers were brought from Murray, four miles away.

Timber after timber was sent into place and progress was slow but there were no more retreats. Daylight finally burst into the tunnel prison. Fearing delay, Mr. Johnson told the imprisoned men to stick their feet out. Muddy boots appeared in the opening and in a moment George Peterson was being brushed and hugged by his friends. Jerry, who was rescued in the same manner, insisted on walking to the works.

1909 Two miners rescue after trapped 50 hrs in St Patrick mine at Murray Utah

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Sun, May 23, 2021