

THIRTY-FIVE MINERS IMPRISONED; RESCUED

Fifty Tons of Debris Re-
moved From Tunnel
in Colorado

CREEDE, Colo., Dec. 23.—Thirty-five men were imprisoned when the Nelson tunnel of the Happy Thought mine caught fire today, and all were rescued after fifty tons of debris were removed. Two hundred volunteers responded early today when the alarm was sounded. Men, women and children rushed from their beds and many of them braved the cold in scanty garments.

Through a connection in the Regent mine, the property adjoining, a way was made to the imprisoned men. Ropes were lowered to them and they clambored out nearly exhausted from the smoke and fumes but otherwise uninjured. When thirty-three men had climbed to safety it was learned that Charles Hamilton and Clyde Sprague, the pit boss, were imprisoned in another part of the mine. A hole was broken through the ceiling and the two were also rescued.

At midnight, after the mine had been on fire for sixteen hours, it was believed that the blaze was under control.

1912 dozens of miners rescued from Happy Thought mine fire



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HAPPY CHRISTMAS AT COLORADO MINE

Creede, Colo., Dec. 25.—(AP)—A score years ago, 40 miners in the Happy Thought mine here received their greatest Christmas gift—the right to live.

Imprisoned on Christmas eve, 1912, in wandering mine tunnels and shafts when timbering at the entrance entrance caught fire and the flames raced deeper into the workings, the men were rescued on Christmas day by two heroic and wise men whose names were not etched on the records of that time.

No Gas Masks

Knowing of a small tunnel from the Happy Thought to the adjacent Park Regent mine, these two tied wet sponges over their mouths—there were no modern gas masks in those days—and crawled into the flaming mine, leading 33 miners to safety. Seven others had gone as far away from the entrance as possible and it was some time before the rescuers found them, but they too were led to safety.

The entire town turned out to battle the flames, which raged for two days before being extinguished.

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