

CAVE-IN CATCHES 50 ZINC MINERS; ALL ARE RESCUED

Men Climb 250 Feet Through Debris Amid Utter Darkness and Reach Surface of Earth.

Webb City, Mo., Oct. 1.—As by a miracle, there was no loss of life when fifty zinc miners were caught tonight in the drifts of the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Co., when the roofs of mines Nos. 1, 2 and 3 caved in. Thirty acres of ground caved to the working levels 250 feet below. All the men have been rescued.

While there were no men at work in these mines, the rush of air through the drifts of four other connected mines catapulted and buffeted men against rocks and the jagged ends of mine timbers. Most of those injured, it is believed, were hurt in this way. The electric lighting system throughout the mines was paralyzed.

Blind Mule as Leader.

Out of shaft No. 7 came crawling miners both maimed and unhurt telling of blind groping through the darkness below ground. The hoisting cages were put out of commission through the breaking of electric connections and the men climbed 250 feet to safety.

Fifteen miners climbed to the surface after finding their way through darkened drifts by liberating a blind track mule and following him as he made his way over a path he had trod unseeing for years, to the shaft. All of these men were injured, none of them dangerously.

None of the men were working near the drifts that caved, save James Davis and Fred Fannon, tube hookers. Timbers in No. 3 shaft were jarred loose and Davis and Fannon were struck. Fannon, himself seriously hurt, pulled Davis from beneath the debris.

1914 Fifty zinc miners rescued following massive cavein at Missouri mine

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