

FOUR MINERS ENTOMBED; ALL ESCAPE WITH LIVES

Close Call to Death Experienced by Workmen at Plymouth Coal Company's Black Diamond Colliery—Rescued at Nine O'clock Last Night.

Entombed for more than seven hours behind a fall of rock was the experience of four men employed in the Cooper vein of the Plymouth Coal Company's Black Diamond colliery at Luzerne borough yesterday. Fortunately none of the men were injured, but it was an experience they will never forget.

The fall occurred in a gangway about 150 feet from the foot of the shaft. The gangway is about 350 feet long and is 150 feet below the surface. It is believed that the fall was caused by the removal of pillars. The gangway was completely closed by the cave. The four men were made prisoners and they were unable to do anything but just wait until their rescuers were able to clear away the debris.

Charles Swedress heard the cave-in and at once called to the other three men, all of whom gathered together and they tried to work their way out, but it was impossible. They were able to talk to their rescuers and direct them which way to work. At no time were they alarmed, for they knew that it was only a matter of time until they would be dug out.

The men entombed were:
Alex. Yumanik, miner, married, Buckingham street, Luzerne.
Charles Swedress, miner, married, 698 Bennett street, Luzerne.
Steve Lesik, laborer, married, 14 Oakley court, Luzerne.
Bruno Kostowski, laborer, single, Brodrick.

As soon as the fall of rock occurred, Gilbert Jones, superintendent, and David Morris, inside foreman, put men to work driving through the rock. Hour relays of five men each were used and at 9 o'clock they had them all out. Thomas R. Phillips, vice-president and general manager of the company, Mine Inspector Jennings and other officials were there aiding in the rescue work.

1915 Black Diamond Colliery rescue

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