

LIVED 7 DAYS ON BONES AND OIL

Six Men and Three Boys Are Rescued From Mine.

ALL ARE VERY WEAK

They Chewed Wicks in Lamps to Get the Oil and Finally Gave up Hope of Rescue.

Pottsville, Pa., Oct. 4.—The six men and three boys entombed in the Coal-dale mine last Monday morning were rescued alive, and in good condition, yesterday afternoon. They were taken to the Panther Creek hospital, where their families were forbidden to see them.

They kept alive by eating chicken bones and chewing the oil from the wicks of their miner lamps. Of the eleven men imprisoned when a rush of water blocked them, all have now been rescued alive.

The rescued men, all of Coal-dale, are: Elmer Herring, Michael Gustav, Peter Lohmlich, Joseph Ludwig, Charles Malochka.

The boys saved are: Joseph Murphy, of Tamques; John ~~Mohr~~ and John Hamner, of Coal-dale.

The accident occurred in the Foster tunnel of No. 11 mine of the Lehigh Coal & Navigation company colliery. A blast released water from an abandoned working, and the flood rushed into the gangway, where the eleven men were working and blocked the gangway a distance of more than 100 feet. William Walkus and George Hollywood escaped on Tuesday afternoon, by making their way from a chute through various air ways, until they finally reached the surface.

The other nine were caught farther back in the gangway and so found their escape cut off. They made their way up a chute, where they huddled together almost seven days. Several of them were able to save their dinner pails and the contents were apportioned out sparingly, while the lights of their miner lamps were extinguished to keep the air pure and to husband the oil for nourishment.

Thursday the last drop of oil was consumed and also the last of the chicken bones which two of the men had in their pails, and not until then did they give up hope. They had heard the rescuers working at times, and they felt themselves growing weaker and weaker, they abandoned hope of being taken out alive.

When the rescuing force came upon them, after having driven 1200 feet through the blocked gangway, they were too weak to make any demonstration of joy. They accepted their rescue in a quiet way, and were not encouraged to talk.

When the last barrier was broken through the gangway was found to be filled with water, and it was necessary to use the electric pumps to clear it out before the rescuers could get to the chute. In the meantime, word had been sent to the surface and ambulances were brought to the mine opening, and a crowd quickly gathered. It was not known until the exhausted men reached the surface whether they had been found dead or alive. A number of physicians were in the mine at the time the rescue was made.

1915 Nine miners rescued after trapped 7 days in Foster tunnel

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