

MAN IMPRISONED IN CALIFORNIA MINE RELEASED

Robert Hill, Trapped for 57 Hours, Is Center of Family Reunion at His Home at Grass Valley

Grass Valley, Calif., June 14.—Bathed and clad in clean clothes, refreshed with sleep and food, Robert Hill, imprisoned for 57 hours in the black hole of the Baltic mine tunnel near here, and released shortly before midnight last night, was the center of a family reunion at his home here today.

Hundreds of friends and many total strangers called during the day to see the man who had cheated death by less than a minute. Had he been a few feet further advanced in his journey to the mouth of the tunnel, Thursday afternoon, he would have been crushed in the cave-in which imprisoned him.

Hill today was in a voluble mood and told and re-told for scores of times the sensations of hope and dread, hunger, cold and fatigue which he experienced after he was imprisoned by a 50-foot slide in the tunnel in which he had dropped behind his companions in going off shift.

His first knowledge that he was imprisoned, he said, was when he stumbled against the obstruction which had fallen less than a minute previously. For 24 hours he did not hear a sound and had no means of knowing whether rescue work was under way. He felt confident, he said today, all of that time that he would be rescued. His first thrill of joyful expectancy came when he heard the dull sound of picks and shovels through the mass of debris. Soon afterward a system of signals was established through the broken air pipe and he knew then that it was merely a matter of time until an entry would be cut through the fallen debris.

Hill today was in good physical condition, but was still pale and worn from his experience. He said that two or three days rest would fit him to return to work in the mine. Mrs. Hill, however, interposed an objection, declaring that her husband never would again with her consent enter a mine.

1925 Robert Hill trapped 57 hours rescued

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