

# FIVE OF SIX MEN ENTOMBED IN TOMHICKEN MINE RESCUED ALIVE

## Miners Were Trapped in Flooded Workings When Block Creek Broke Through Its Banks a Week Ago Last Tuesday Afternoon

### REUNIONS AT THEIR HOMES BEGGARS ALL DESCRIPTION

All Are in Good Physical Condition in Spite of Fact That They Were Without Food or Water for Eight Days—Officials of Coal Company Announce That Search for Charles Smith Will Be Continued but It Feared That He Was Overwhelmed by Flood Waters Having Been in Lower Workings

Hazleton, Nov. 24. (AP)—Five of the six men entombed nine days ago by a flood in the Tomhickon mine of the Lehigh Valley Coal company were taken out alive tonight and will spend Thanksgiving with their families.

All except Charles Smith were rescued. He was some distance below the section where they had been working on the day of the accident. Whether he is alive or dead was not determined but it was feared that he was drowned.

The rescued men are Henry Kirchoerfer, assistant foreman; August Yenchick, Michael Lawrence, John Gondera and John Lorincz. All are from Tomhickon.

Gondera was trapped on his twenty-first birthday anniversary and was to have been tendered a party the night of the accident.

The imprisoned men were found at 7.40 o'clock. The rescue caused great excitement in the little village and all through the Lehigh coal field.

The men were found in an old breast off the No. 8 tunnel, and not No. 16, where they were supposed to have been.

Kirchoerfer, when the flood occurred, was going down the No. 8 slope when he heard the bumping of cars and surmised that something was wrong. He called to the men who had been damming up water in the No. 16 slope, turned and ran up an old travel-way to No. 8 east old gangway.

When he got there he found that the men had not followed him. He ran through the rising waters and raced after his comrades who were running into the opposite direction in No. 16.

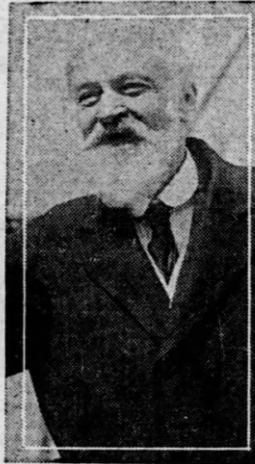
He turned them about and led them back up the manway to No. 8 east tunnel. They found their way blocked by a fall. Then they climbed into an old breast which was above the water level.

As they sat there they watched the water rise at first as the flood reached its crest and then saw it gradually recede as the pumping operations proceeded. How long they sat there they could not tell. Frequently they threw stones into the water and were able to tell in this way that the flood was going down.

Finally they got down to the gangway after the water had lowered and then they decided to work their way over to the tunnel on the west, getting to a point where a heavy fall of timber and other debris stopped them.

Much credit for the rescue belongs to Walter Stauffer, foreman of the  
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### Dr. Lorenz Returns



Dr. Adolf Lorenz, noted "bloodless surgeon" of Vienna, is shown arriving in America on another visit. Dr. Lorenz became famous in the United States a few years ago when he held clinics for children suffering with deformities of limbs and joints. He hopes to remain until April, 1927, so as to celebrate his seventy-fourth birthday in New York, April 21.

## READING BUTCHER'S SHOTS ROUT THIEVES

### Empties Two Guns at Intruders in Smokehouse — Blood Trail Indicates One Hit

Reading, Nov. 24.—Two robbers were rounted and one of them is believed to have been wounded, when they were discovered in the butcher shop of Gougler & Luft, 818 Penn street, in the heart of the business section here late last night.

According to George Luft, one of the proprietors of the store, who is well known in Pennsylvania sporting circles, he emptied the contents of two pistols at the forms of the men when he found them in a smoke house in the rear. Later a trail of blood was found about the buildings, but was lost in Cherry street, where the men escaped.

Two large watch dogs, chained in the back of the store, gave the first alarm of the robbers' presence. Luft, who had just returned from a boxing  
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## EVANGELICAL MERGER BEFORE STATE COURT

### Decision Reserved in Case Involving Control of Albright College

## FIVE OF SIX MEN ENTOMBED IN MINE ARE RESCUED ALIVE

(Continued from Page One).

Tomhicken mines, who was the first to greet the men who had been trapped. He went over a fall of timber into the section where the men were waiting a call from those whom they felt sure were trying to reach them.

Gondera had a box of carbide partially filled along with him. He lighted this as a sign to the rescuers that they were there and this is one of the things that aided in saving them, because the light attracted the attention of the rescuers.

All of the men were in good physical condition notwithstanding that they had been without food or water for eight days and were able to proceed to their homes, where reunions occurred that beggar description.

Kirschdoerfer seemed to be the strongest of the five.

"Oh, hell, I don't want to ride" was the expression of the assistant foreman, as they wanted to take him home in an automobile.

Kirschdoerfer was the life of the party and kept the spirits of the men up from the time that they were entombed until they heard the glad work of their rescuers.

Accompanying Stauffer were Michael Ambrose and Hurley Mensinger who had their way to a fall of timber. These three men saw the box of carbide and also discovered the tracks of men in the mud. Immediately reporting this, they then went in and brought them out, Stauffer being the first to greet the men and Mensinger and Ambrose following.

The first-aid corps on the scene was hurriedly taken into the mine and was ready to offer whatever aid was necessary but all of the five said they required no particular attention. Doctors and nurses were also on hand to give them treatment and advised that the best thing to do was to let them go home.

Thomas Kennedy, international secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, had offered special accommodations for hurriedly removing the men to the State hospital, but it was not necessary to take them there.

Officials of the Lehigh Valley company announced tonight that while it was generally believed that Charles Smith was dead in the flood, they would not lessen their efforts to get him and would put every resource at their command into play to find him dead or alive.

All the pumps tonight continued in full operation and the work of lowering the water will go on unabated.

The men kept their lights burning until November 18 when they went out. All of them had carbide lights.

They kept their watches going, but had difficulty in keeping track of the time. Hence when they were rescued, some of them had arguments on as to what day it was, some claiming that it was already Thanksgiving day, but other insisted that it was last Monday. This showed the condition of their minds as a result of their long imprisonment.