

### MINER BURIED ALIVE FOR 72 HOURS TELLS OF EXPERIENCE

Hears Cries of Companions Grow Weaker As Death Nears

ONLY ONE IS SAVED

Rescued Man Un-Nerved By His Terrible Adventure

OROVILLE, Calif., April 22.—(By The Associated Press.)—Lying on his back with bloodshot eyes, almost dead of exhaustion after 72 hours entombment, Thomas M. McDermott, 38, veteran miner, last night told of the tragedy in Grizzly tunnel, Plumas county, which probably claimed five lives.

The doomed men received no warning of the impending disaster, McDermott said.

"We were working in the tunnel driving hammers, when a tremendous crash, an ocean of rock poured into the tache," he said. "I was caught with great force. I found myself lying face down in the muck. It seemed as though half an hour must have elapsed and then I heard more timbers crashing.

"In the darkness, I felt around. I found a broken post, nearby with its broken end resting upon a pile of rock, forming what miners call an 'A.' It took me hours, it seemed, to pull my body into its shelter.

**HIS HEARS CRIES**

"As hour after hour passed, the air grew heavy with carbon monoxide. Then came the cries of the workmen. I first heard Elly Cope, the shift boss. 'I am getting weak,' he said. 'I can't stand it much longer.' He talked for a while and then he stopped.

"Horse McBride, a man of huge stature and great strength, made a great fight for his life. For hours McBride kept calling. I think both of his arms and legs were broken in the slide. His voice got weaker toward the end."

McDermott was unnerved by his experience. He talked in a state verging on hysteria.

**SECOND EXPERIENCE**

The trapped men could not hear their rescuers until shortly before he was found, he said. Although they listened for taps and sounds of digging.

This is not McDermott's first cave-in. He was buried five days in the Heroules mine in the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho, and escaped death by crawling up an air shaft.

Coroner F. W. Hagan of Quincy held an inquest last night over the bodies of Cope and Coyne. A coroner's jury composed of doctors and men from Quincy and Oroville, not connected with the tunnel operations, rendered a verdict of death from the "injury of falling timbers and suffocation."

## 1926 Thomas McDermott buried alive 72 hours

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