

2 MEN ARE ENTOMBED IN NEARBY MINE

Six Rescued Alive In Hazardous Operation Near Girardville

ONE IS FATALLY HURT

Portaville, Pa., Feb. 15.—Two men were missing here this afternoon as a result of a fall in the Raven Run Colliery of the Hazlebrook Coal Company near Girardville yesterday when nine men were trapped. Six were rescued alive shortly after the fall and one man was killed when crushed in the main airway.

Rescue workers continued their efforts today to reach the two men who are thought to be alive.

The men are working in fifteen minute shifts. The heavy mud is a considerable handicap to the rescuers in trying to reach the two men still entombed.

The dead miner is Frank Jacobs, 35, Girardville.

Those still entombed:
John Davis, Girardville.
Max Kanady, Raven Run.
Rescued miners are:
Devon Davis, Girardville.
James Stokes, Girardville.
Thomas Mitchell, Girardville.
Paul Stevens, Calmar.
Eliot Lebig, Calmar.

Herman Lindenmuth, Roaring Creek.

The six miners who were rescued last night were not so deeply entombed as the two missing men and were kept alive by pumping oxygen into their underground prison until rescuers could remove the debris.

When the six miners started to make their escape, they found the body of Jacobs held by rock which kept him a prisoner.

The miners at once set to work to loosen Jacobs from his holdings and after several attempts freed him of the rock. He was seriously injured, however, and died fifteen minutes after being rescued. When death set in, the six entombed miners placed Jacobs' body on the other side of the fall of rock where it can

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1927 Six miners rescued from fall in Raven Run Colliery



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be brought to the surface immediately after the gangway is cleared. They then made their way to the surface.

The soggy condition of the ground following a sleet storm of the day, previous, caused a mine hold to cave in, carrying a rush of mud and water to the underground channels. The accident occurred in the West slope at Raven Run, the mine breach fall allowing the mud and water to rush down, completely filling up the gangway for a distance of 150 feet.

The first man to see the slide was Philip Rock, a motor runner, whose motor was directly in the path of the deluge. Rock jumped from his engine, and a short time later the motor was completely covered up by the mud and debris.

Rock started to retreat from the gangway and was forced to wade through water. He finally got out and spread the alarm which quickly brought rescue workers to the scene.

Rescue squads were immediately organized and work was started to remove the accumulation of mud from the gangway. The air pumps were kept going and a supply of fresh air was continually forced into the chambers.

About fifty men were put at the rescue work, under the direction of the colliery officials.

State Mine Inspector Bottomly went to the scene as soon as he was informed of the accident. He aided in directing the rescue work.

Word was sent to General Manager Snyder in Hazleton and Mr. Snyder immediately made preparations to go to the mine and aid in the rescue work.

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