

Miner Saved From Death In Aladdin Divide Cave-In To Continue Work At Project

Despite his injuries and narrow escape from death in a cave-in Friday morning at the Aladdin Divide Mine, Charles Ernest Richards plans to return to the mine and resume his work as soon as his injuries permit.

From his bed in the Enloe Hospital Mr. Richards yesterday expressed his intention of returning to the project where by only a few inches he escaped meeting death with Jess C. Burton of Paradise, a fellow employe, beneath a mass of lovo rock.

Held a prisoner for at least half an hour when a huge boulder pinned his arm and leg down, Mr. Richards related how he lay in the tunnel, 400 feet from the portal and hundreds of feet below the mountain side, fearing that each moment would bring another cave-in that would crush the life from him as the first one had his fellow worker.

So hoarse from continually crying out for help that he could hardly talk above a whisper, the miner told of his unsuccessful attempts to reach the water pipe, by which he hoped to summon outside help by continual tapping. He found this impossible, however, because the rocks had pinned him down and prevented him from extending his free arm to the line.

For what seemed to him a matter of hours, but which later proved to be about half an hour, he lay in the shaft, hoping that each moment would bring rescuers. His cries for help were not heard until Emil Schultz, a fellow employe, who escaped the cave-in

only by the fact that he had gone to attend to the water flow, entered the portal and heard his cries for help.

Although knowing that his fellow employe had been crushed to death, Mr. Richards kept the news of it from his rescuer for the time being, fearing that it would tend to excite him. Mr. Schultz worked quickly and coolly with a bar and soon had the imprisoned miner extricated from beneath the boulders. Other employes were then told of the accident by Mr. Schultz, and work of removing the body from beneath the rock and earth was begun.

Before the men started to remove the body they timbered the shaft at the point of the cave-in to guard against a second collapse of the roof.

No sooner had word of the accident been spread in the camp than Miss Norma Martin, a niece of Mr. Richards, began the long ascent from the bottom of West Branch Canyon to the top to send word for a physician. Running up the steep mountain side over the trail that drops 2800 feet in about three quarters of a mile, she reached a telephone and summoned Dr. D. H. Moulton of Chico. At the road she met Fred A. Willis, an employe and a brother of Ed Willis, foreman. Efforts of the two to reach the deputy coroner's office in Chico by telephone failed because of line difficulty, and the two drove to Chico to notify Deputy Coroner William V. West of the accident.

1929 Charles Richards rescued from cavein at Aladdin Divide mine

