

MAN BURIED TO THE NECK WHEN CAUGHT BY BIG SLIDE

**Rescue Force Liberates
Charles Zawacki, 38, of
Atlas, From Perilous Posi-
tion After 15 Hours of La-
borious Work**

VICTIM ESCAPES WITH ONLY MINOR INJURIES

Buried to his neck when a slide caught him at the bottom of a bootleg mine hole, Charles Zawacki, 38, of 489 West Saylor Street, Atlas, had a miraculous escape from an agonizing death, 40 feet below the surface, Saturday.

Volunteer workers rescued Zawacki alive at midnight Saturday after 15 hours' laborous shoveling and timbering. The man was taken to the Shamokin State Hospital, where an X-ray examination revealed no broken bones. He was sent to the men's ward, however, to be treated for shock and exposure.

Zawacki and fellow workmen had dug the bootleg hole to obtain coal for use in their homes. The open-

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MAN BURIED

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ing was about four feet in diameter on a steep pitch.

Zawacki was digging coal at the bottom of the narrow pit when one side caved in, burying him to his neck at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. Following the cave-in a companion went down into the hole and raked the loose dirt and rock away from the entombed man's neck so he could breathe easier. The task of uncovering the man was then begun.

Using an ordinary water bucket attached to a rope, the rescue squad hoisted dirt from the pit as it was placed in the bucket by a worker using his hands to scoop up the debris around the entombed man.

The work of uncovering the man was hazardous, due to additional slides from time to time. Early in the afternoon, when it was apparent another side of the hole was about to fall in, the workmen deemed it advisable to begin timbering the hole from the top down, to safe-

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guard themselves and the trapped miner.

The timbering was completed at 7:30 and at that time Dr. E. R. Allen, of Mount Carmel, went down into the shaft and administered aid to the suffering man, who was unable to move and whose pains were increasing. The Rev. Anthony J. Mayan, rector of St. Peter's Catholic Church at Mount Carmel, also climbed down into the pit at the risk of his life and administered the last rites of his church.

When the Rev. Mayan came out of the pit, the squad of rescue workers resumed their task of uncovering the man. A workman went to the bottom to resume filling the bucket with his hands.

A crowd of more than 500 persons was around the pit when Zawacki was pulled out on the end of a rope, which was tied beneath his arms when he had been uncovered down to his knees. The crowd cheered when the man was brought up.

Zawacki embraced his overjoyed wife and three children, who had waited patiently at the mine hole during the 15 hours of rescue work, then hurriedly thanked the rescue squad and left in a waiting car for the hospital. Observers said they never saw a man stand up more bravely in the face of almost certain death. When his arms had been freed, Zawacki helped scoop up dirt with his hands to hasten his rescue.

Among those taking part in the rescue work or directing the efforts of the volunteer workers were Robert Edminson, superintendent of the Reliance colliery, and his staff and other expert mining men of the Mount Carmel section.

The hole in which Zawacki was trapped is located a short distance from his home, on Bowery Hill.

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