

CARBONDALE BOY IS RESCUED FROM CULM BANK SLIDE

**RELEASE OF YOUTH FROM
CAVE EFFECTED ONLY AFTER
STRENUOUS WORK ON PART
OF EXPERIENCED MEN.**

Carbondale, Jan. 13.—Working desperately to forestall the danger of further slides, rescue crews succeeded in extricating Joseph Zukowski, sixteen, son of Jennie Zukowski, 247 Canaan street, Carbondale township, at 12:40 o'clock today from the Racketbrook culm bank along the old D. & H. gravity roadbed, in which he was trapped for two hours this morning while digging coal.

Zukowski is now in St. Joseph's Hospital, where he is being held for observation, suffering from shock and probable internal injuries. His rescue was effected only after frantic toil by rescue workers laboring in imminent danger of death to themselves and the trapped youth.

Zukowski and three neighborhood companions, Joseph Klickus, Joseph Myrak and John O'Bloskey, went to the Racketbrook dump this morning to pick coal. Working on top of the dump, the quartet went down to a depth of seven or eight feet and then struck off at a tangent which carried them several feet away from the main hole.

Heavy frosts of recent weeks had cemented the surface, consisting mostly of slate and rock, into a hard mass and the four assumed they were working in comparative safety. In the midst of their labors they sensed the danger of collapse and scrambled for safety. All but Zukowski escaped. He was caught and buried up to his chest.

His companions shouted for assistance and other coal pickers rushed to their aid. They succeeded in freeing all but his legs when a new slide occurred, burying

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1936 Carbondale boy rescued from culm bank slide



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CARBONDALE BOY TAKEN ALIVE FROM CULM SLIDE

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Zukowski again, this time up to his neck.

Panic stricken, the coal pickers sent a call into the office of Mayor William Monahan and he dispatched Chief of Police John Murphy, and Patrolmen Arthur Dearier, Patsy Neutts and Walter Benton and a crew of street department men. Surveying the treacherous conditions when they arrived, they appealed to the Coalbrook colliery for experienced workers and a crew headed by Preston Lambert, colliery superintendent, and Joseph Martin, general mine foreman, rushed to the scene.

New Danger Appears.

Utilizing makeshift props, the mining men put in an emergency cribbing to hold up the roof. Then they faced a new danger as the turmoil on the surface started squeezes from both sides of the hole. Two hours passed while the rescue workers dug frantically to get Zukowski free.

In the meanwhile, the ambulance of Funeral Director W. J. McHale, manned by Eugene Loftus and J. Norton, stood by with a pulmotor in readiness and a nurse, Miss Catherine Foy, on hand. Drs. Walter E. Loftus and J. R. Walsh and Rev. D. C. Tonkeiwicz, of Simpson, also waited outside, ready to give medical or spiritual assistance as the occasion might warrant.

The reports that a man had been trapped had circulated widely by this time and a crowd of several hundred traveled to the culm bank but James (Hooky) Reap and James E. Murphy, of the Hudson Coal Company police, kept them at a proper distance.

Finally, at 12:40 o'clock, two hours after he was caught in the slide, Zukowski was released and lifted to the surface. The ambulance rushed him to the hospital.

The youth's father, Zipron Zukowski, died about eight months ago.

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