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Man Tells Story of Entombment In Old Coal Mine Near Carnegie

Saved From Mine Cave-In

Says Whole Roof Of Tunnel Suddenly Fell on Him.

IS RESCUED QUICKLY

Neighbors, Hearing Crash, Have Victim Out Of Pit in 20 Minutes.

His face still marked by the grit that had pierced his flesh when he was buried under tons of coal and shale in the cave-in of an abandoned mine near Carnegie, Jacob Wright yesterday lay on his hospital cot and proudly told the story of his entombment that nearly cost him his life.

Fearful for the health of his three-week-old son, Jacob, Jr., Wright set out yesterday morning to get coal to warm the ramshackle wind-swept dwelling on Hope Hollow road in which he and his family make their home.

Dragging a pick after him, Wright crawled his way into a small tunnel angling into the shaft of the abandoned Fleck Coal Company mine, from which poverty-stricken families in the little valley settlement obtained their fuel.

Whole Roof Caved In.

"I was crouched low, picking away at the coal, when a small boss cracked one of the supporting ledges of coal," Wright said. "The first thing I new the whole roof of the tunnel had caved in, smashing me to the ground."

"My arms got pinned, but I kept trying to work them loose, so I could poke some air holes through the rock and dirt. I don't know whether I was hurt or not. I only remember that I felt dizzy.

"Then I lost consciousness. When I came to, they were working on me out on the hillside."

The rumbling of rock down the steep slope above the mouth to the tunnel first apprised neighbors of the accident. Hearing the noise, Homer Phillips, a neighbor of Wright, exclaimed, "I wonder if that's at the mine?"

He and others rushed to the tunnel and saw Wright's legs protruding from the debris that cluttered the entrance. Their cries aroused others, and a rescue crew soon was working feverishly to free the entombed man.

Rescued Within 20 Minutes.

Twenty minutes after he had been trapped by the cave-in Wright was dragged, unconscious, from the tunnel. A neighbor revived him by sprinkling water on his face. He rushed to Mercy Hospital, and after a short period in the clutches of his injuries. Late yesterday his condition still was undetermined.

Residents of the Hope Hollow settlement, familiar with cave-in accidents which are a frequent occurrence at the mine, reasoned that Wright's picking at the roof had smashed a layer of rock which supported the earth at the lip of the tunnel, causing the dirt as well as coal upon his body.

The floor of the tunnel sloats down, causing the aperture to fill almost instantly when a slide takes place. Shortly after Wright had been rescued a second slide completely obliterated the entrance.

Dorothy Wright, wife of the rescued miner, is a frail, pale-faced waif with her husband to carry home the coal that he dug but had stayed at home yesterday to take care of their baby.

They are arrived three weeks ago in circumstances almost as extraordinary as Wright's miraculous escape from death. The child was born in the back seat of an automobile in which the mother was being driven to Mercy Hospital.

Wright is employed as a cook in a Carnegie restaurant at the rate of $12 a week. While he remains in the hospital neighbors will take care of his wife and baby.

Rescued after having been buried under tons of coal and shale in the cave-in of an abandoned mine near Carnegie yesterday, Jacob Wright is shown, above, with his wife and three-week-old son, Jacob, Jr., for whose sake Wright entered the treacherous tunnel, are shown in the adjacent photo. Below, Homer Phillips, a neighbor of Wright, is pointing to Wright's glove lying at the debris-cluttered entrance to the pit.

Senate Votes Guffey Bill, Ban on Sit-Downs Beaten

(Continued From Page One.)

prices and automobiles and consumers' durable goods.

The Pittman resolution is designed to meet objections raised by some senators to the Byrnes amendment in the effect that sit-downs should not be condemned unless wholesale use by certain employers of labor spies and other weapons of espionage also were declared illegal. The Pittman plan would not place the President on record, since he is not required to approve resolutions which embrace purely the expressions of the House or Senate.

Till Over Textiles.

Not a word in defense of the sit-down strike, condemned by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and employed by unions affiliated with the rival Committee for Industrial Organization, came from the floor of the Senate chamber yesterday.

Opponents of the Byrnes amendment based their fight on the ground that it would actually condemn sit-downs until an inquiry has been made into reasons for the strikes, including alleged refusal of employers to grant workers collective bargaining rights guaranteed under the Wagner-Connery labor act.

Senator Carl A. Hatch, Democrat, New Mexico, described the Byrnes amendment as a "slap in the face" for 40,000 coal miners. Senator Homer T. Bone, Democrat, Washington, objected to "picking out the acts of one group." Senator Robert F. Wagner, Democrat, New York, recalled there was "no great outcry" at disclosures by the La Follette civil liberties investigating committee of widespread use of espionage and intimidation of labor unions.

RITES FOR RIVER PATROLMAN HELD

1937 Jacob Wright rescued from old coal mine cavein

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