

**Crews Rescue  
Entombed Five**

Special to The News  
COMMERCE, Okla., May 24.—A miner's wish is to die in the sunshine.

Bill Sholtz had his wish yesterday.

He was coming out of a mine shaft in a hoisting bucket with Dick Kelton, another miner who had been toiling in the old Oliver Jones Mine, when the cable snapped.

The car plummeted to the 200-foot level causing an avalanche.

The bucket and the avalanche struck and killed Fred R. Rosson, 40-year-old father of five children.

**Kelton's Legs Broken**

Mr. Sholtz and his fellow passenger were hemmed in and crushed by rocks.

Both Mr. Kelton's legs were broken.

Writhing in agony, the men did not give up hope. They prayed for a swift rescue.

It came two and a half hours later.

Men summoned by John Kenney, 20, hoist operator who was struck on the head by a cable when the derrick supporting the lift collapsed, dug them out and carried them to the surface.

Mr. Sholtz died in a Miami Okla. hospital two hours after seeing the light.

Mr. Kelton still was clinging to life today.

The rescuers' work did not end when the two men were taken out.

**Four Entombed**

Trapped with them at the 200-foot level were four other men—Oliver Kerney the foreman; John Teague, Bob Scott, and Vernie Kams.

With the hoist shattered and the shaft entrance blocked, their one avenue of escape was blocked.

They huddled together in the darkness while men from nearby mines flocked with picks and shovels to aid in the rescue work. The rescuers finally dug through an abandoned slope connecting with the Oliver Jones mine and carried out the trapped men.

The mine, abandoned years ago as "played out," had been rented by the seven men who manned it.

Through makeshift operations, they sought to eke a living out of the abandoned property. The practice is known as "gouging," and is common in the tri-state zone.

## 1938 Five entombed miners rescued from Oliver Jones mine in Oklahoma

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