

## ONE MINER OVERCOME, 3 ESCAPE

Black Damp Sweeps  
Coal Hole East of  
Shamokin

BUDDIES SAVE  
H. E. BINGHAM

Victim Still Uncon-  
scious At 1 P. M.  
Today

Three miners escaped un-  
harméd but a fourth was criti-  
cally injured as black damp  
swept their coal hole east of  
Shamokin, at 10:00 o'clock  
this morning.

Howard E. Bingham, 48, of  
1328 Wabash street, Sham-  
okin, was rescued from the  
mine by the three others af-  
ter they had made good their  
escape.

He was removed to the Shamokin  
State Hospital where it was an-  
nounced this afternoon he is suffer-  
ing from severe shock, lung injuries  
and his condition is considered seri-  
ous.

The three other miners were Vic-  
tor Dopiecki, John Letys and Je-  
seph Stinson, all of Shamokin.

The four men were working at the  
bottom of the 300-foot shaft when  
the dreaded black damp swept in,  
overcoming Bingham immediately.

Alert to the imminent danger, the  
others hurriedly began ascending  
the shaft, Letys grabbing the fallen  
Bingham by the belt and dragging  
him along.

Risking his own life in a heroic at-  
tempt to save Bingham, Letys man-  
aged to get the stricken miner about  
40 feet up the shaft when, presum-  
ably affected by the black damp to  
a certain extent himself and also  
exhausted from Bingham's weight,  
he lost his hold on the belt and Bingham  
tumbled down the shaft.

It was discovered afterward that  
Bingham fell to within ten feet of  
the bottom on a distance of about 80  
feet and that he was saved from a  
longer fall by some timber at that  
point of the shaft. Had he fallen the  
full distance, he would have drowned.

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1939 Howard Bingham rescued from coal hole near Shamokin



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## One Miner Overcome Three Escape

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in about six feet of water lying in the sump of the mine.

Upon reaching the surface and safety, the three proceeded to rescue Bingham, not knowing whether he was dead or alive.

Toploskie and Sinoskie lowered Lotys into the shaft in an oil can used as a bucket for mining purposes. Lotys lifted Bingham's unconscious form into the bucket and the two were hoisted to the surface.

The ambulance from the Shamokin State Hospital had been called to the scene in the meantime and the doctor used a pulmator in an unsuccessful effort to revive Bingham. His injuries included a long gash at the back of the head. Bingham was still unconscious in the hospital at 1:00 o'clock this afternoon.

1939 Howard Bingham rescued from coal hole near Shamokin



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