

Friend Saves Bootleg Miner Overcome By Gas

Central figure in a spectacular and daring rescue from a mine filled with deadly black damp gas, Howard E. Gingham, 48 of Wabash Street, Shamokin, a bootleg miner, is in a serious condition in the Shamokin State Hospital this afternoon after having been overcome by the gas fumes and having fallen approximately fifty feet while his rescuer was carrying his unconscious form to the surface. He is suffering from the affects of the gas fumes and also sustained a serious gash of the head and it is feared that his skull was fractured. He remained in an unconscious condition several hours after having been admitted to the hospital.

To John Lodys, a fellow worker, went the credit for having saved the life of Bingham.

The two men, with Victor Poploskie and Joseph Sinoskie, all of Shamokin, were working about 300 feet below the surface in a mine near St. Edwards cemetery, east of Shamokin when traces of black damp, most-feared peril of the anthracite mines, was detected. The four men rushed from the tunnel but Bingham was overcome as he ran toward the shaft to go to the surface.

Lodys seized his prostrate companion's belt and dragged him to the shaft, where he laboriously began the climb to the surface. He had ascended about 65 feet when Bingham's belt tore and the unconscious man dropped fifty feet before becoming wedged behind a prop. Had he fallen to the bottom of the shaft, he would have drowned in six feet of water filling the sump.

Lodys, Poploskie and Sinoskie continued the ascent and reached the top safely. Then, after having been fully revived by the fresh air, the three men organized a rescue crew using a huge empty oil drum as a bucket in which they lowered Lodys into the shaft a second time. He was able to pull the unconscious man into the improvised lift and the two were hoisted to the surface.

The ambulance of the Shamokin State Hospital had in the meantime been summoned, and arrived with a physician and pulmotor, shortly after the injured and overcome man had been brought to the surface. Bingham was placed under treatment in the ambulance without delay and rushed to the hospital. Lodys and the other two men did not require hospital treatment.

1939 Howard Gingham rescued from bootleg mine blackdamp



Clippe
usr
Tue, Jan