

Saved From Coal Hole But Dies in Hospital

**William Koons Second To Meet Death In
Pine Hill Accident; Brave Throughout
Ordeal**

"I'll be all right now," William Koons, 44, of 101 N. George street, this city, told bootleg miners as they rescued him Saturday afternoon at 4:25 from the bootleg coal hole on the Pine Hill Mountain in which he and his brother-in-law Roy Kramer, 38, of 747 N. Centre street, this city, had been imprisoned Friday.

Kramer had been recovered dead shortly before noon.

But Koons' injuries and the shock of being buried alive more than 24 hours in a coal hole were too great and he died Saturday night at 11:40 in the Pottsville Hospital.

Sorrow that had been replaced with joy again is evident in the Koons home here. Saturday morning his wife and three daughters, Dorothy, Bertha and Mae, heard that the husband and father of the family was dead.

And then Saturday at noon it was learned that he was alive. Eagerly the family awaited the news as miners worked desperately to free him.

About To Amputate Leg

Success crowned their efforts late Saturday afternoon, but only after a messenger had been sent to Minersville to get Dr. J. Harry Close and have him descend into the coal hole and amputate Koon's leg which was holding him fast.

Before Close arrived the miners by a desperate effort freed Koons and brought him to the surface. Ten minutes later the entire mine collapsed. Only by these few minutes did the miners miss the same fate as Koons and Kramer.

They brought him to the surface then and as the rain touched his face, Koons said "It's raining."

He seemed to be dazed but when P. Joseph Brennan, head of the Independent Miners, who had been on the scene since rescue efforts began, asked: "How do you feel, Bill?" Koons replied:

"Oh, you know how I feel."

"Don't worry," Brennan told him, "we'll soon have you at the hospital and you'll have the best of care."

(Continued on Page Two)

1939 William Koons rescued from mine after 24 hours dies in hospital



SAVED FROM COAL HOLE—
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