

Foresight Saves Miner Gassed In Coal Hole

Marlin Beury, 24 year old independent miner of Mt. Pleasant, knew all about the dangers of deadly, suffocating "black damp."

Yesterday afternoon, he wisely waited until brother Guy, 26, came home from work and could stand guard on top before he ventured into his poorly ventilated bootleg mine to drive a new air opening.

That bit of foresight, plus his brother's courage, was credited with saving the life of Marlin, an ex-Seabee, when he was overcome late yesterday afternoon shortly after he entered his 90-foot slope on the mountain between Buck Run and Primrose. Recent heavy rains had closed one of the two ventilating openings in the workings, and Marlin knew it wouldn't be safe or healthy to work in that kind of air.

When he first felt the dizziness caused by "black damp" and his lungs began choking for air, Marlin called to his brother on top for help. Guy dashed down the slope, and as he struggled to help Marlin up, he began to feel the effects of the bad air himself.

Realizing he wouldn't be able to affect the rescue singlehanded, Guy dashed back up the slope alone, summoned a neighbor, Frank Zurat, and the two together went down the mine, tied Marlin securely with a rope and brought him to the top.

Andrew Bauchak and Ray Conville responded to a call for help with the Minersville Goodwill ambulance, and both Beury brothers were taken to the Pottsville Hospital for oxygen treatments.

Guy, least affected of the two, was released last night. Marlin, fully recovered this morning, was expected to be discharged from the hospital late today.

For Marlin, it was his second sojourn in the Pottsville Hospital in recent years. On his first trip, when he was injured in an auto accident, he met Nurse Nelda Bradbury. Today she is Mrs. Beury.

1947 Marlin Beury asphyxiated in coal hole



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Wed, Jan 5, 2022