

### ENTOMBED MINER RESCUED SAFELY

A 62-year-old miner entombed in a standing position for nine and a half hours after a cave-in of coal and earth was smoking a cigarette as weary rescue workers hoisted him from the 30-foot hole.

Alexander Pachekailo was trapped with his son, Joseph, 22, in an anthracite shaft at Sagon, near Shamokin on Saturday. The son had dug himself out after an hour.

A cheer rose from 200 spectators when 25 men lifted the smiling miner from the hole.

"Where are you taking me?" he asked as he was placed on a stretcher. "I'm all right—let me go home."

At Shamokin Hospital, Pachekailo was treated for shock and exposure. He had no other injuries.

Rescuers were forced to work singly in the four-foot square shaft of the independent mine. The debris—big chunks of earth, rock and coal—had to be removed a bucket at a time before the trapped miner could be raised to the surface.

Several times Pachekailo cried out to the men who picked slowly at the debris:

"Don't bother, don't bother. I'm going to die."

Pachekailo laughed when brought to the surface. A lasso had been looped under his arms.

On the surface, Pachekailo's wife, six sons—including Joseph—and two daughters maintained a constant watch.

John Brophy, a state mine inspector, said Pachekailo "apparently miscalculated and got caught in a rush of coal and dirt started by workings in other mines."

Brophy referred to an adjacent mine Pachekailo had operated before starting prospecting operations in the shaft in which he was trapped.

## 1949\_Alexander\_Pachekailo\_rescued\_after\_10\_hours

Clipped By:



usmra\_rob  
Sat, Jan 30, 2021