

Trapped Miner Rescued Alive

**Workers Dig And Claw
Their Way To Man
Held For Hours.**

Lonaconing, Md., April 6 (AP)—Rescue workers dug and clawed their way through 40 feet of rock and dirt yesterday to free a trapped coal miner.

He was still alive when they reached him although he had been pinned down for six hours by heavy timbers which had collapsed on him and buried all but his head in heavy dirt. After clearing away the dirt, the rescuers had to saw through the timbers to free him.

The trapped miner, 42-year-old Harry Spiker, was rushed to Miners' Hospital in Frostburg, where he was reported to be in good condition. He had leg wounds and injuries around the pelvic region but no fractures were diagnosed immediately.

Spiker was trapped in the nearby Old Pine Hill mine, which he runs for the Georges Creek Coal Company, when tunnel timbers gave way.

His brother, Raymond, also was caught by the sliding dirt, but another brother, Charles, was outside the mine at the time and was able to pull Raymond out quickly. Raymond suffered only minor injuries.

Charles could only clear the dirt away from Harry Spiker's head. Then he ran for aid.

Thirteen jobless miners from the Lonaconing area formed the rescue team. A second fall shortly after they had started digging almost wiped out the rescue effort, but the men pulled themselves out and continued their digging.

By the time Spiker was freed, some 200 persons had gathered around the mine lending a hand when required.

1950 Harry Spiker rescued from Old Pine Hill Mine



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