

## Flooded Mine Hides Fate Of 3 at Lark

**Trio Presumed Dead  
As Rescuers  
Conclude Search**

Three miners trapped since 4 a.m. July 16 in the Lark mine of United States Smelting Refining and Mining Co., were presumed dead Monday and probings of the mine by rescue crews had been terminated.

Last of the crews of 32 men each assigned to search for Clyde Augustson, 41; Robert Gordon Meyerhoffer, 37, and Leland D. Nielsen, 37, left the Mascotte tunnel at Lark Sunday at 5 p.m.

"We've done everything we possibly could to bring them out alive," said Oscar Glaeser, industrial relations manager, who directed the week-long day-and-night effort to save the lives of the trio.

### Ends Rescue Work

"There will be no more rescue crews enter the mine," he said. "We have probed the entire area where the men might have been found alive."

Beginning late Monday or early Tuesday, five pumps with an extraction capacity of more than 3000 gallons per minute would be installed to clear the flooded 1000-foot level of the mine, said Mr. Glaeser.

Work crews would be assigned immediately to attempt to penetrate the 5826-foot incline where it had been determined the fire which began a week ago still was smoldering.

### Timbers Collapse

It was expected that the pumping operation of the flooded area may take five or six days. None of the officials would estimate how long it might take to clear the fire-gutted incline. Much of that area had collapsed when timbers burned away.

Even before Mr. Glaeser made his grim report Sunday evening, close relatives of the missing men, who had maintained a constant watch at the mouth of the Mascotte tunnel, were resigned to the impossibility of finding them alive.

### Starvation Factor

Even had they escaped the smoke, poisonous gasses and flood waters in the mine, starvation coupled with cold and dampness made their rescue doubtful after the fifth day.

Found dead last Monday near the Lark shaft, 7400 feet from the Mascotte tunnel portal, were Horace Martin Seal, 57, hoist operator, and Byron G. Thomas, 46.

Mr. Seal and Mr. Nielsen had entered the mine July 15 at 11 p.m. and had not carried any food with them. The other three, who had expected to return to their homes for Sunday morning breakfast, entered the mine at 4 a.m. to investigate a reported fire. They have not been heard from since.