

Young Boy's Sprint Saves Two Miners

**Lad Spots Cave-in,
Then Runs for Aid
As Pa Tries Rescue**

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—An eight-year-old boy's yell and 150-yard sprint for help saved two miners from possible death Sunday and made his father "the proudest man in Montana."

A cave-in at the Bull Gulch lead and zinc mine near Jefferson City, 29 miles south of here, completely covered Robert Steinbacher, 34, at 1:30 p.m. (MST) this Father's day. Mine owner Henry Madison, about 70, was held fast by rocks, gravel and dirt that stopped cascading when the slide reached his chin.

Young Charles O'Reilly of Helena was the only other witness to the near tragedy. He yelled to his father, Henry, who was prospecting about 100 yards above the mine, pointed to the cave-in and raced to the nearest telephone which was at the Steinbachers' home about 450 feet from the mine.

On His Own

"I never had to tell my boy a thing," the father said. "He was thinking and moving faster than me."

But Henry O'Reilly was slow. He ran to the mine with a pick and shovel and seeing Madison able to breathe began digging where he thought Steinbacher was buried.

"I heard a muffled moan and that indicated there was an air pocket. In about 10 minutes I had freed Robert's head enough so that he could breathe more easily."

Calls Volunteers

O'Reilly's son, meanwhile, had urged Mrs. Steinbacher to call an ambulance and a doctor and round up some volunteers. She drove to Jefferson City a mile and a half away and then rushed back to the mine, having gathered half-a-dozen men from a local bar.

As both miners grimaced from considerable pain, Henry O'Reilly directed rescue work and in another 20 minutes had the men free and on stretchers.

Steinbacher and Madison, both of Jefferson City, apparently suffered only shock and bruises. Witnessing the speedy rescue operations was Mrs. Steinbacher, near collapse Sunday afternoon at St. John's hospital.

The O'Reilly lad said, "I didn't do nothing. I just yelled and ran. My father sure did dig fast."

1952 Eight year old boy helps save two miners caught in cavein

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