

## One Tries to Rescue Other

# 2 Library Miners Suffocate

Two miners suffocated in black damp today in a pit just across the Allegheny County line near Finleyville.

**The victims were brothers-in-law, and mine officials said one apparently died while trying to rescue the other.**

They were identified as Martin Brandis and George Bero, both of Library.

Both were dead when fellow miners dragged them from an abandoned bore-hole a short distance from the main shaft of the Doyak mine, operated by the Curry Coal Co. of Broughton.

Another miner, John Webster of Library, had tied a rope around his waist and crawled into the hole—30 inches in diameter—in search of the missing pair. But it was too late.

George Boyka, who leases the 25-acre Washington County site to the coal firm, said Mr. Bero apparently had wriggled into the horizontal tunnel to investigate.

**When he failed to return, he was followed by Mr. Brandis. Both collapsed in the oxygen-starved air.**

Black damp is a non-explosive mine gas consisting chiefly of carbon dioxide.

Allegheny County police ambulances from South Park answered the rescue call. County officers went to the scene—about a mile from Piney Beach—with a physician and a priest.

The bore-hole had been drilled several years ago in a strip-mine venture. It was located near the entrance of the drift mine, named for John Doyak, who heads Curry Coal Co.

Both victims had reported on the 7 a. m. shift. Their absence was noted around 7:45.

Mr. Bero has a wife and two children; Mr. Brandis, a wife and four children.

1957 Victim and rescuer die in the Doyak mine asphyxiation



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