

# California Miner Rescued By Fellow Worker As Blasts Toss Him About Mine Shaft

LOS ANGELES, (AP)—A gold miner lay helpless in a Death Valley tunnel, hearing the fuses for 18 sticks of dynamite hiss a song of destruction.

Frank Rasmussen, 35, could only wait. His right leg was shattered from a premature blast and gushing blood.

As he waited for the remaining charges to blast him into eternity, he gasped a prayer and buried his head under his arms.

Then he heard his alarmed partner, Harry Boyer, starting into the shaft from 18 feet above to see what was wrong.

"Don't come in here!" Ras-

mussen shouted. "No use both of us dying!"

Moments earlier he had lighted the 40-inch fuses to 10 two-stick charges, spaced across the end of the tunnel wall. Ordinarily he would have had two or three minutes to get out. Something went wrong this time—a faulty fuse.

Wham! With each blast two sticks of dynamite went off. Rocks and dirt flew. The noise was deafening; the concussion, terrific.

Rasmussen counted the explosions. One, two, three—ten in all, counting the first one which had slammed him right

against the opposite wall 10 feet away.

As the echoes died away, Boyer charged into the shaft.

All he could see of his comrade was a shoulder sticking out of the debris. Boyer grabbed it and pulled Rasmussen's head free.

Boyer tied a rope tightly around Rasmussen's leg, to stop the pouring blood. Then he packed the injured man up a ladder and drove him to the nearby village of Skidoo.

Rasmussen, from his hospital bed here, told the story Wednesday night. In traction with a leg broken in two places, he was waiting for X-rays to show how badly his back was injured.

1959 Gold miner needs rescued after injury caused by faulty blast fuse

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