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Dramatic Rescue Saturday Near Mule Canyon

The dry lake area just south of Mule Canyon was the scene of a dramatic rescue early Saturday afternoon. Little eight-year-old Gene Armand Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stevens of 721 North Duff St., La Puente, California was rescued after falling 50 feet into an abandoned uncovered mine shaft near the edge of the dry lake adjacent to Mule Canyon Rd., and Calico Rd., Yermo, Calif.

The Barstow Sheriff's substation received a call at approximately 11:20 a.m. Saturday, January 7, from the mother, Mrs. Adeline Stevens, stating that her son, Gene had fallen into an open mine shaft.

Units from the Barstow Sheriff's Substation, Fire Department, along with the Civil Defense rescue Unit were dispatched to the scene.

Eight-year-old Gene Stevens was found lying at the bottom of a 50 foot mine shaft still conscious and able to move in spite of what proved to be a broken leg.

John Patton, of the Barstow Fire Department Rescue Squad was lowered into the shaft, where he managed to tie the boy into a wire basket type stretcher which was raised to the surface by fellow workers. An ambulance immediately rushed the boy to the Barstow Community Hospital where he was given emergency treatment.

Latest reports from the hospital indicate that the boy's condition is generally good. He suffered a fracture of the left leg as well as cuts and bruises about his face and body.

Investigating the accident was Lt. Floyd Jones of the Barstow Sheriff's Substation assisted by Detective Paul Simon and Deputy Jim T. Hicks.

On hand to render whatever assistance possible was Fire Chief Willis Pinkerton and Civil Defense Rescue Unit workers Donald Burgett, Dale A. Patton, John Patton, Donald Rowland, William Zualet, Robert Mitchell and Ted Dykes.

1961 Eight year old rescued after 50 ft fall into abandoned mine shaft

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