

Three Trapped In Coal Mine

One Rescued After Arm Amputation

PETROS, Tenn. (AP)—A slate fall trapped four miners in an old coal mine near this east Tennessee mountain town Friday. One was freed five hours later after rescuers severed his arm.

A call was issued for more workers as a rescue team dug through more than 30 feet of debris in a desperate effort to reach the remaining three trapped men. A nurse at the scene said rescuers could hear the trio and "they sounded very calm."

Robert Woods, 19, Wartburg, Tenn., was taken from the mine after a doctor, using a hacksaw blade, cut his arm above the elbow. Woods' arm had been caught between rocks and a coal car.

The fall occurred while the miners were taking out coal pillars and shoring up the mine, which was being reconditioned after being closed.

Trained rescue teams from Anderson and Roane counties were en route to the mine to relieve veteran miners who took turns trying to reach the trapped men.

Eight miners were in the mine when the accident occurred. Three walked out safely.

1961 Tennessee miner rescued after arm amputated



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Thu, Sep 30, 2021

Little Hope of Rescue

3 Trapped Tennessee Miners Believed Dead

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — A human chain of rescue workers hand-passing debris from a collapsed coal mine shaft ran into solid rock early today in efforts to reach three trapped and apparently doomed miners.

"It may be a week before we get through," said miner Elmer Smith. "There's no telling."

Five miners escaped when the old shaft collapsed an hour before they were to start a two-week vacation. The arm of one miner was amputated by a doctor with a hacksaw and another suffered a fractured pelvis. Three were uninjured.

Tedious Efforts

The mine, 2,300 feet up Fork Mountain in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee, was being reconditioned after being closed several years.

Hope was virtually abandoned for two miners, Charles Seiver, 23, and Charlie Kennedy, 28, last

night. Nothing has been heard from Herly Carroll, 18, since last night when rescue workers heard him call from beneath the rubble to "get me out."

"He's bound to be dead," said Smith when he returned from a stint in the pick-and-shovel rescue operation today.

Workers planned to continue the tedious rock picking work indefinitely after they were forced to abandon a plan to go over the stack of debris. They earlier dynamited through 18 feet of coal.

Robert Woods, 19, pinned between fallen rock and a coal car, was rescued by a doctor who amputated his arm. He is in serious condition in an Oak Ridge, Tenn., hospital. His father, Claude Woods, 47, suffered a fractured pelvis.

Federal Mine Inspector Steve Bukovick said there was no hope of finding Seiver or Kennedy alive.

1961 Tennessee miner rescued after arm amputated



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Fri, Oct 1, 2021