

Trapped 3 Hours At Shaft Bottom

HINKLEY—John Poulson, veteran miner who lay nearly three hours in the bottom of a 224-foot mine shaft in the Superior Valley north of here Tuesday, is now in the San Bernardino County Hospital, "not in critical condition" but suffering from a fracture of the lower spine.

Barstow firemen, sheriff's deputies and members of the Barstow Rescue Squad were over two hours getting Poulson out of the old shaft.

Don Widdows, Barstow ambulance operator, made the first descent into the shaft — going most of the way by a ladder nailed to the side of the shaft and then being lowered by rope.

After Widdows had rendered first aid to Poulson, fire Capt. Don Burgett descended to assist Widdows in binding Poulson to a stretcher and starting up the long shaft. Widdows then came up the shaft with Poulson — with one group of emergency workers hoisting Widdows on a tripod and a second group hauling the stretcher across a fire ladder.

Fire Capt. W. R. Mitchell directed operations from above. The mine shaft is owned by Walter Hutchins, who lives in the Superior Valley north of here, and Elmer Kelsoe of Highland. Hutchins said the mine is known as the Shamrock and he and his partner have been planning to reopen it.

He added that he had given Poulson and his partner, Jack Rogers of 3001 Highway 91, Barstow, permission to take samples from the mine about a month ago. He had heard nothing further from the two men, however, until Tuesday noon, when Rogers turned up and told him Poulson had fallen into the shaft and was injured.

Rogers explained that he and Poulson had descended to a drift at the end of the ladder where they had taken some samples. The ladder, he added, was in good repair, even though Hutchins said it was put in in 1928.

On the way back up, Rogers said, Poulson dropped his teeth from his shirt pocket. He got a rope and went back down to search for his teeth at the bottom of the shaft. When the rope broke and Poulson was injured, Rogers added, he went for help.

Among those waiting at the entrance for Poulson when he was brought up was his daughter, Gerry McFall of 2564 Weaver Road. Dr. James R. Hanley met the ambulance and gave Poulson emergency treatment.

Poulson, 55, has been mining most of his life, Rogers said, adding that he, too, has mined for many years.

The setting for the desert mine disaster was more that of a Sunday school picnic, for the whole of Superior Valley was abuzz with wild flowers. Hutchins, in fact, had guests from Barstow — Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Babcock Sr. of 28 E. Fredricks St. — and was about to leave on a picnic when Rogers reported the accident to him.

String Duo Well Received At Barstow

BARSTOW — The final concert in the series of the Barstow Community Concert Association was held recently at the Waterman School Auditorium, Barstow.

An appreciative audience heard brilliant interpretations of classical and modern composers by the Pierrat Sisters, a young cello-piano duo from France, Simone, the cellist and Fran-

1965 John Poulson rescued from abandoned mine shaft fall



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