

Injured Youth Rescued From Idled Mine

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — A Springfield youth fell and injured himself in an abandoned mine shaft Sunday, but rescuers brought him out, mud-covered, within two hours.

Eighteen-year-old Charles Stoner was taken by ambulance to a hospital suffering from a fracture in his leg or back.

A rope broke while he was lowering himself in an old lead mine. He dropped about 50 feet.

His companion, 19-year-old Paul Montgomery of Nixa, Mo., crawled back out of the shaft and flagged down a sheriff's office patrolman for help.

Montgomery, a student at Southwestern Missouri State College, told officers he and Stoner entered the shaft about 8 o'clock this morning to explore. They descended the original shaft about 40 feet, then crawled some 300 feet to where they found a rope. Stoner began to lower himself 50 feet into another area but the rope broke.

Rescuers scrambled into the hole in the eastern part of Springfield. They strapped Stoner to a cot. Covered with mud and moaning from pain, the youth was brought out and carried to the ambulance.

1966 Charles Stoner rescued from fall in old lead mine



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