

Miner 'Beats Obituaries,' Trapped 30 Hours in Cave-in

CLARKSBURG, W. Va. (UPI) —A Taylor County coal miner, trapped by tons of slate and coal for 30 hours, told newsmen from his hospital bed Wednesday that he simply "beat the obituaries."

Edward Longwell, 52, a big man with calloused hands, was not injured in a huge roof fall at the Glen Falls Mine of the McCandlish Coal Co. just north of here.

The first collapse and another which followed 10 minutes later sealed him a mile inside at about 1 p.m. Monday. Res-

cuers reached him at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

"I hope nobody else ever has to go through that," said Longwell, a resident of Rosemont. "I want to thank everyone who helped me."

In all his 36 years of coal mining Longwell said he had had no real scrapes with death. His experience with mining apparently helped him not to panic and he said he waited calmly for rescuers.

Longwell, a mining machine operator, was "pulling pillars" when he was trapped. Usually, when the last pillar (coal roof

support) is pulled, there's a "crackling noise" when the roof falls. But he said, "It made no noise, it just came down."

The miner said he ducked under the machine just in time as the slate and earth crashed down around him. He said he had about six inches of clearance around his legs and hips and a little more at his head.

To breathe, he said, he put his face closed to a crevice on the floor through which air was circulating.

Longwell was expected to be released from the hospital after a short time.

1966 Edward Longwell rescued from cavein after 30 hours



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