

Boy, Explorer Rescued From Mine Shafts 68 Miles Apart

A boy "prospecting" for sun-tinted bottles and a silver mine explorer from Anaheim—each with broken bones—were rescued Sunday from the bottom of old mine shafts 68 miles apart in the Mojave Desert.

John Hawkins, 15, of 19620 Parthenia St., suffered a broken pelvis and cuts and bruises in an 80-foot fall at Johannesburg Saturday and was in fair condition at a Ridgecrest hospital.

Gordon Mahoney, 37, of 543 S. West St., Anaheim, sustained a broken shoulder and ankle as well as facial cuts when he fell 20 feet down a shaft near Barstow.

Mahoney was exploring an old

silver mine with W. V. Thornton of Barstow, who summoned San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies to carry Mahoney out in a wire basket.

Hawkins slipped into a loosely covered shaft 40 miles east of Mojave while searching with three cousins for old whisky, medicine and other bottles which are sought as collector's items. He disappeared without anyone immediately realizing it.

He was located after an intensive all-night search by 40 deputies and members of the Kern County sheriff's search and rescue team, a helicopter from China Lake Ordnance Test Center and a group of local miners.

1967 Boy and an explorer rescued from mine shafts 65 miles apart

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