

## Man May Be Located by Monday

### Loose Rock Encountered

WALLACE, Idaho — Galena mine officials estimated it may be Monday before rescue crews reach the body of Fred Stepro, 53, who was trapped 2,200 feet below ground in a mine cave-in about noon Friday.

Plant superintendent G. B. Christian said late Saturday two crews, working from above and below the site of the cave-in, have encountered extremely loose, treacherous rock in the blocked slope.

He said crews are working carefully to avoid other slip-pages in four-hour shifts.

Stepro is believed to be buried at the end of an 80-foot slope leading horizontally from the mine's central shaft.

Mine officials held little hope that Stepro would be found alive. At first it was thought he might have been trapped in an air pocket behind the fallen rock.

#### One Out Safely

Dean Cody, 33, who was in satisfactory condition Saturday at East Shoshone Hospital, was rescued about three hours after the cave-in. He said rescuers he was about 80 feet from Stepro, who apparently was working farther up the slope. Cody said he was struck in the back by a support beam and bent double under the fallen material but had enough of an air pocket around him to be able to breathe and remain conscious.

The Galena Mine is owned by the Calahan Mining Co. and operated by American Smelting and Refining Co. (ASARCO).

Larry Hanson, ASARCO official, said Saturday rescuers will work "at full tilt" until the trapped miner is reached.

"There's no way of knowing when he'll be found, but two complete mining crews will continue the search," Hanson said.

The rock burst — a violent shifting of underground rock strata — set off a loud report, which was heard in Wallace two miles away at 12:10 p.m. Friday.

Stepro's wife, Jessie Mae, visited the mine shortly after the accident and returned home to await word of the search. The couple has two children, Jo Ann and Dale; at the home, and a married daughter, Mrs. Ken Echoes, Wallace; and a married son, Fred S. Stepro Jr., who also is employed at the Galena mine.

1968 Dean Cody rescued from Galena mine



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