

Three Miners Are Trapped; One Escapes

LUNDALE, W. Va. (AP) — A coal mine slate fall trapped three miners yesterday and rescuers worked into a rainy night trying to reach them.

Mine officials said one man escaped being trapped but they would not comment on the conditions of the trapped men. The escaped man held little hope for the other three.

West Virginia Director of Mines Elmer Workman went to the scene from his Charleston office, about 90 miles north of the mine site. The mine is Amherst Coal Co., No. 1 at Lundale, in south-central West Virginia.

Ervin E. Roark, 34, was in the Tony Fork shaft when it collapsed. He said he managed to escape when fellow workers pulled him from beneath the debris that pinned him up to his waist.

"It just set down all at once," Roark said. "There wasn't no warning or nothing."

Roark identified the trapped miners as Emmett Copley, Amick Tudor and Charlie Lowe, all from the Lundale area.

"Emmett and Amick were running a mining machine and Charlie and I were pinning tops," Roark said. "We looked up and seen it drifting and we began to run back down the shaft."

"Charlie was right behind me but I guess he didn't make it out in time."

Roark said the slate fall occurred about 2 mile to a mile and a half from the mine's main entrance. He said, however, there were smaller exits along the way.