

El Dorado Mine Fall Kills Four

**Shingle Springs,
El Dorado county**

A break-away mine shaft elevator plunged 600 feet through the darkness yesterday, carrying four miners to their deaths.

The accident occurred about 7 a.m. at the El Dorado Limestone Company mine located about 13 miles southwest of Placerville.

The dead were identified by a company spokesman as John T. Owens, 50, of Orangethale; Fred J. Davidson, 25, of Shingle Springs; Ronald D. Warner, 32, of Placerville; and Robert Walleth.

"They dropped at 100 miles an hour without so much as a shout and probably never knew what hit 'em," said Jim Truscott, the mine's accountant.

Three of the bodies were recovered at the end of the elevator's tracks 1130 feet below the surface.

The fourth, later identified as Walleth, but with no hometown, was found 170 feet farther down at the unused bottom of the shaft.

Investigators for the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the State Division of Industrial Safety hastened to the scene.

Preliminary reports indicated the trouble developed in the cable winch at the top of the shaft.

About 30 other miners had already gone down the shaft when the accident took place. The mine, according to Truscott, has been operating since before the turn of the century. *Our Correspondent*