

Compton Youth Rescued From Old Mine Shaft

BARSTOW — A Compton youth was in satisfactory condition last night after a 150-foot fall down the main shaft of the Silver Queen Mine at Calico Ghost Town, located north east of here.

Darrel Avery, 19, was taken to Barstow Community Hospital where he was treated for a broken leg, cuts and bruises.

He and his brother, David, 23, entered a horizontal shaft in the mine and apparently got lost before Darrel fell into the main vertical shaft around 3 p.m., said Sgt. Gerald Hanna of the Barstow Sheriff's substation.

A timber protruding from another shaft broke this fall, saving him from dropping to the bottom which is full of water and debris. His brother climbed about 200 feet to the top of the boarded over shaft and summoned help.

Two sheriff's deputies and 10 men from the Barstow Desert Search and Rescue Team rushed to the mine to start rescue operations. Volunteers Charles Jefferson and Eldon Haskell were lowered 350 feet into the main shaft and pulled the trapped youth out at about 6:50 p.m.

Sgt. Hanna said the mine entrances are boarded over and signs are posted warning the public to stay away from the abandoned mine.

1972 Darrel Avery rescued after 150 fall in mine shaft



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