Castro Valley teen-ager rescued from mine shaft

Special to The Tribune

PROVO, Utah — "I thought I was dead when I fell through the opening," Don Bateman, 16, of Castro Valley, said after being rescued from a mine shaft here.

Bateman and a group of friends were exploring the old Buckley silver mine in the mountains northeast of Provo yesterday when he fell 25 feet down a mine shaft.

"I was unconscious for a while, and when I woke up my head hurt real bad," Bateman said.

He was cut over the right eye and injured his right hand in the fall. He tried several times to climb out but kept slipping back.

Two of his companions notified police, who dispatched a nine-man unit from the Provo Alpine Rescue Team. By the time they got him out, Bateman had spent about 3½ hours at the bottom of the shaft.

The rescue team knew exactly what it was doing, having used the old mine shaft in a training exercise just two weeks before, Provo police said.

1978 Teen rescued from mine

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