

Sheriff unit rescues father, son

By Charlie Roberts

Transcript-Bulletin managing editor

A West Jordan man and his son were rescued Saturday after falling down a 40-foot mine shaft in North Willow Canyon.

Phillip Butterfield, 12, was exploring an abandoned mine when he fell down a gradual slope and tumbled into a shaft.

A few minutes later, William Butterfield went into the mine looking for his son. He also fell into the 40-foot shaft.

At that point, two other young boys with the party ran down the canyon and notified nearby campers of the accident.

Tooele County Sheriff's office was notified of the incident about 8:30 p.m., Sheriff Don Proctor said.

Sheriff Proctor, Deputy Willard Gowans, and search and rescue unit members Tim Simonich, Larry Modena, Rudy Garcia and Joe Trujillo went to the scene.

The rescue party entered the mine and used rappeling equipment to lower Mr. Simonich to the victims.

Mr. Butterfield and his son were lifted safely out of the shaft.

"They had a few bruises and were a little cold," said Sheriff Don Proctor. "They were lucky—very lucky."

The sheriff said the rescue ended about 12:15 a.m. Sunday.

1988 Phillip Butterfield abandoned mine rescue

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Tue, Jun 29, 2021