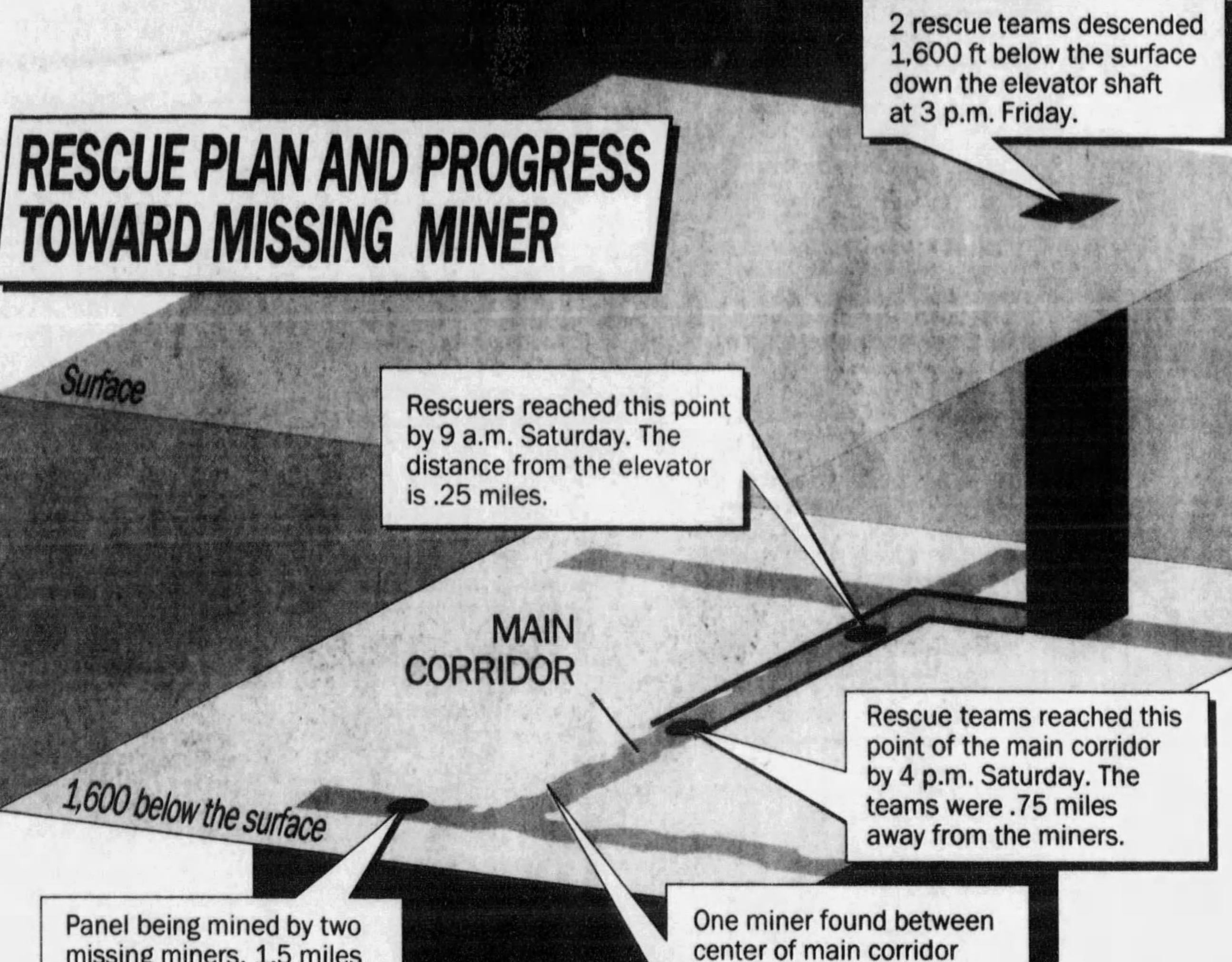


# Miner found alive 30 hours after quake

Survivor reunited with family



Temblor centered 3 miles

#### By KATHARINE COLLINS Southwestern Wyoming bureau

**GREEN RIVER** – Mine rescue teams late Saturday found one miner alive who had been trapped 1,600 feet underground when an earthquake shook Solvay Minerals west of Green River.

Solvay Minerals officials said rescue workers early Saturday evening found the miner who had been trapped beneath the ground since about 8:30 a.m. Friday.

He was identified on local radio stations as Danny Jereb, apparently in his late 20s. He was reportedly found walking around in a daze by rescuers.

A company press release said he was being medically examined and interviewed by the mine rescue team for any information that might assist in continuing search efforts for the remaining miner.

The fate of a second trapped miner was not immediately known.

Rick Casey, vice president of operations, said, "It was the highlight of my life to see this young man reunited with his family."

The Friday morning temblor damaged one of Solvay's six active mining units.

Though the earthquake - the largest on record in Sweetwater County, measuring 5.4 in intensity - occurred at 8:26 a.m. Friday, it was nearly 11 a.m. before it was discovered the two miners were missing. And it was 3 p.m. Friday before mine rescue teams descended the mine shaft.

Nine other underground miners were treated and released at Sweetwater County Memorial Hospital Friday. Most of the injuries were for eye irritations from trona dust, cuts and abrasions, company officials said. By 4 p.m. Saturday, 80 specially trained mine rescue workers had managed to negotiate about half of the oneand a-half-mile route from the mine entry point to where the missing men were

#### SOURCE: Solvay Minerals Inc. A. deRonnebeck/Star-Tribune

#### last seen.

The determining factor in the pace of the rescue mission was how quickly the underground ventilation system could be re-established, company officials said.

missing miners, 1.5 miles

from elevator.

Company officials and the state mine inspector provided technical explanations of rescue and basic mine ventilation procedures and equipment at press briefings Saturday. But they would not release the names of any injured or missing miners. Casey said workers who were underground at the time of the quake have been "told not to talk" to the press.

forts," he said. "These men have gone through a lot of emotional trauma and are still trying to recollect their thoughts."

and point where working

Friday morning.

#### **Rescue resources**

The rescue effort is the first full-blown mine rescue operation in Sweetwater County's trona mining history and is occurring in the newest, most modern mine. Ten mine rescue teams - about 80 trained rescue workers - drawn from all five trona mines west of Green River were being rotated into and out of the mine. "We're not resource-limited by any stretch of the imagination," said Sam

Scheiner, Solvay's director of human resources.

State Mine Inspector Don Stauffenberg said that rescue workers were deployed in a "back-up" mode for about two hours, and on the front line of the operation for about three hours. They then returned to the surface for rest or sleep in a warehouse where bunks had been set up. In addition to the miners, there were about a dozen federal Mine Safety and Health Administration mine safety experts from Green River, Salt Lake City, and Denver on the scene. In response to Please see MINE, A8

deep

#### **By JEFF GEARINO** Southwestern Wyoming bureau

**GREEN RIVER** – Preliminary seismic data from the U.S. Geological Survey is showing the earthquake that shook Sweetwater County Friday morning probably occurred along a strike-slip fault located three miles deep underground, officials say.

Two Solvay Minerals Inc. employees were trapped 1,600 feet down in the Solvay trona mine after the largest earthquake in the county's history shook the area.

The epicenter of the earthquake - estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be just north of Interstate 80 some 18 miles west of Green River - may also have been much closer to the Solvay plant than originally thought, officials said.

Solvay's soda ash facility sustained the most damage of the five soda ash plants operating out of the Green River Basin in southwest Wyoming, and being closer to the quake's epicenter may account for that, officials said.

Jim Case of the Wyoming Geological Survey's geologic hazard division said Saturday there is a problem locating the epicenter in a remote state like Wyoming, which doesn't have very many seismic stations. Current estimates have a five to six mile margin of error.

"We don't want to hamper rescue ef-

Case said he had a "gut level Please see QUAKE, A8

## Consultants: E. Wyo consumers pay KN too much for gas Towns urged to shop around, not get stuck with over-priced gas

#### **By HUGH JACKSON**

Star-Tribune capital bureau

**CHEYENNE** – Residential customers in Lusk, Wheatland and other eastern Wyoming towns are paying KN Energy too much for natural gas, a state consultant says.

And those towns should keep trying to shop around on their own for residential natural gas supplies, instead of letting their citizens rely on KN to keep prices in line with the market, the consultant's report says.

People in a number of eastern Wyoming towns are paying higher-than-

B2

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necessary prices largely because KN is bound to an old gas field contract at prices twice as high as current market prices to supply 10 percent of the mix of gas going to those homes, according to the consultant's report released last week.

Making matters worse for residential consumers, KN, through its recent restructuring in response to federal deregulation, has been passing the cost of that high-priced gas contract along almost exclusively to residential consumers rather than large-volume consumers, the report said.

But KN officials, who attended a meet-

ing of the Public Service Commission in Cheyenne Thursday when the report by the Liberty Consulting Group was released, countered that KN's gas prices to consumers comes under scrutiny every year by the PSC.

KN supports and is in the process of implementing several of the recommendations in the consultant's report, said Mark Crapeau, KN's director of retail rates and supply.

But overall, there is "nothing new" in the Liberty report, Crapeau said.

Len Edgerly, who was recently named the general manager for several of KN's retail distribution companies in the com-

pany's "Northern Plains" sector, told officials from several communities which have been hard hit by rising gas prices over the last two years that KN has long had a commitment to finding the lowest priced gas possible.

Later in the day, a Liberty consultant said that it was clear there were many things Edgerly wanted to do to lower gas costs to consumers.

"But he doesn't run the company," observed Liberty consultant John Adger.

#### **Deregulation 'shocks' KN**

Under federal deregulation under-Please see GAS A8 The ramifications of federal deregulation were 'something of a shock' for KN. The company 'didn't understand the market segments that well,' and as a result the company gave its largest gas purchasers attractive incentives to buy gas from somebody else.

LIBERTY CONSULTING GROUP, CONSULTANTS FOR THE WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



U.S., China impose tariffs on each other **Trade sanctions largest** 

GREG BAKER/AP

A Chinese man checks the quality of a pirated compact disc he is about to buy, while the seller, right, watches for police on a Beijing street Saturday.

### in American history

#### **By DAVID E. SANGER** New York Times writer

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration on Saturday imposed punitive tariffs on more than \$1 billion of Chinese goods, the largest trade sanctions in American history, and warned of further action if the communist government continued to refuse to crack down on rampant piracy of American software, movies, and music.

The decision to impose 100 percent punitive tariffs on goods ranging from silk blouses to cellular telephones was met almost immediately by an angry Chinese announcement of tariffs against American-made goods.

The trade confrontation comes at a particularly delicate moment in Chinese-American relations, with disagreements brewing on human rights and arms control as well, and with China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, reported to be seriously ill.

But after several meetings at the White House in recent days

Trade war doesn't scare Chinese bootleggers, A7

on the United States' deteriorating relations with Beijing, administration officials decided that despite the delicate transition of power presumed to be under way, there was no reason to delay the sanctions any longer. Through the first 11 months of 1994, the United States imported \$36 billion of products from China while exporting \$8.5 billion of goods there.

Each country said its penalties would take effect on Feb. 26. The delay, a common practice in cases of trade sanctions, is intended to assure that goods shipped before the retaliatory tariffs were announced would not be affected. The delay also provides a chance for further negotiations; last February, the Chinese struck a deal in a textile dispute on the day when previously announced sanctions were Please see SANCTIONS, A8

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# MINE: Ventilation system damaged

## Continued from A1

press requests to interview the federal mine officials on the scene, Casey said that "MSHA policy" is to allow the companies to relay information to the public, rather than communicating directly with media.

Rich Hodgson, a Solvay vice president in Houston, said that if he were to list 100 dangers in underground mining in Sweetwater County, an earthquake would be the last on the list. He said the mine has no particular earthquake response procedures. Local law enforcement and emergency management staff were also on hand. Solvay officials expressed their gratitude for the widespread community support - including meals delivered by a local supermarket and technical expertise provided by the other four mines. The mine rescue teams regularly train, update their skills and knowledge. The area's trona mining rescue teams have traditionally earned high honors in national mine rescue competitions.

'It was the highlight of my life to see this young man reunited with his family.'

RICK CASEY, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, SOLVAY MINERALS

is gone," Hodgson. "Seventy to

75 structures need to be re-established."

Hodgson said Saturday morning that during the first quartermile of the journey towards the men, all the stopping was gone.

## Survival prospects

Rescue team members also had to continue monitoring methane gas levels, and checking the "integrity" of mine roof supports along the corridors.

Asked about the danger presented by high levels of methane, the company officials said that methane itself is not a poisonous or toxic gas. But if it reaches levels at which it displaces oxygen, miners can be asphyxiated. The trapped man was a shuttle car operator, working alongside a bolter and a miner operator, who escaped with minor injuries.

## Ventilation

Underground mine ventilation is simple in concept. For each ton of trona ore mined, at least four tons of fresh air must be funneled into the mine, past the work area, and then exhausted from the mine.

That means - in the case of Solvay, where 5,000 tons a day or trona are removed - that 20,000 tons of air daily must be circulated through the ventilation system.

The air is channeled by the installation of "stopping" - for which a variety of materials may be used - that separates clean intake air from the dust-laden air that has passed the active mining area. "Stopping" can be large styrofoam blocks fastened together, or tins panels for more permanent installations. But in the current rescue effort, the rescue teams were using materials that can be more quickly and easily installed, such as curtain material of a plasticene fabric. Back-up rescue workers follow with more durable metal "stopping." "The guys that came out said that on the east side (of the main corridor) almost all the stopping

### Resumption of mining uncertain

Solvay is one of five trona mines and soda ash processing plants west of Green River. Trona, a naturally occurring sodium, is processed into soda ash and used in the manufacture of baking soda, glass, detergents and various chemicals.

All underground mining at Solvay ceased after the quake, and surface processing operations are at one-third of normal levels, company officials said. Asked about resumption of underground mining, Casey said that won't occur until the federal mine safety officials give the go ahead. Scheiner would not answer directly when asked whether hourly paid underground miners, idled by the mine shut-down, would be paid by the company during the shutdown. "They will be paid appropriately," he said.