

Boys, dog rescued from mine

THIDA, Ark. (AP) — Volunteers digging by hand rescued two young brothers, their teen-age cousin and a dog from an abandoned lead mine Monday, more than 24 hours after they had become trapped while searching for gold.

The trio — ages 9, 11 and 19 — were pulled out of a small pocket about 250 feet inside the Civil War-era mine. They were cold and wet, but otherwise appeared OK, said the teen-ager's father, Terry Foster.

"I thought they were going to bring them out dead," Foster said. "I thought they were going to lose their air. I thought for sure the little one would be history."

Some people in area believe there is gold in the mine, and the Foster boys — brothers David and



Associated Press photo

Rescue workers leave the scene of a mine rescue in Arkansas, where three boys had been trapped while searching for gold.

William, and cousin Jeffery — was found near the face of the abandoned mine.

On a trip to the mine last week, "one of the younger boys had got some stuff on his shirt, which they thought was gold dust, so they went back in to see what they could find," sheriff's Capt. Bill Lindsey said.

Early in the search, a shovel and pick belonging to the boys

was found near the face of the abandoned mine.

Searchers used shovels and their bare hands to remove sand and dirt at a rate of about a foot an hour.

Lindsey said there was no basis for the local legend that there was gold in the hill in Thida, about 90 miles northeast of Little Rock. "We've never heard of anyone pulling gold out of there."

2002 Three youths and dog become trapped in abandoned lead mine

