

Amateur Gold Prospectors Saved From Dry Well Vow 'Never Again'

RUPERT, Idaho (AP) — Two amateur gold prospectors were hauled unharmed Tuesday from the bottom of a 600-foot dry well, promptly vowed to return but then, after a little thought, decided not to.

"I think we've learned our lesson," said Floyd Gambrell Jr., 28, who with Darrell Hamilton, 27, spent more than 12 hours trapped in the deep, narrow shaft in remote southern Idaho ranch country.

"At first we wanted to go back down to get an assay sample," Gambrell said, "but I've been thinking about it, and with my family and all, it just isn't worth it.

"Any prospecting we do from now on is going to be on the surface—not in a well."

Hamilton and Gambrell, both firemen from nearby Twin Falls, were trapped Monday when an equipment bucket being lowered to them by two companions broke loose and plunged halfway down the shaft.

The heavy bucket became

wedged in the narrow hole, severed their portable telephone line to the surface and blocked their exit. The companions went for help and the hours-long struggle with the bucket began. Rescuers didn't know whether the two were alive or dead.

"About the first 10 hours, it didn't bother us much," said Gambrell. "We laughed and wisecracked between ourselves, and we really weren't worried.

"But then after awhile I found myself wondering what in the world I was down there for in the first place—and I couldn't think of a good reason."

"We knew the bucket had lodged in the shaft and it would be lifted," said Hamilton. "The only problem was that we ran out of matches for our cigarets."

The rescue crew of about 40, working through most of the night, finally got a line on the bucket and pulled it free. Then a boatswain's

chair was lowered to the trapped men.

The two were in a 10-foot square room at the bottom of the shaft. There was plenty of air and the sturdy lava sides of the well eliminated the possibility of a cave-in.

The same shaft—known as the Old Sparks Well—claimed the life of another prospector 25 years ago when a bucket of tools fell on him in a similar mishap.

Cub Scouts Get Awards

Six members of Cub Scout Pack 18 at Alamosa School received award badges during a recent pack meeting. Wolf badges went to Bobby Diehl, Dave Kellogg and Randy Williams, while Mark Bennett, Ross Sanchez and Roger Williams were awarded bear badges. Mrs. H. E. Harling, 910 Rio Vista Circle, SW, is the pack's den mother.

Forty-two per cent of West Germany's 54 million people work in industry.