

Seven of Eight Men Trapped in Mine By Flood Rescued; Eighth Was Killed

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP)—After an all-night struggle by fellow miners in mud, water and debris, seven of eight men trapped in the rush of water in the Lehigh Valley Co. anthracite mine at Jeanesville were rescued at dawn today.

The eighth man, Paul Kuritz, of Hazleton, was found dead, his body buried in mud. Kuritz died because he ran in the wrong direction when the flood waters from an old mine operation rushed upon the men.

The rescued men were brought to the surface an hour and a half after they were found in a "rock hole" above the reach of the water.

All said they were uninjured. Two of them, although protesting they "felt fine" were taken to a hospital for observation.

The rescued walked out amid the cheers and shouted greetings of wives, children and others who

spent an anxious night about the mine mouth.

But there was silence when the body of Kuritz was carried from the dark workings and placed in an ambulance.

The seven men rescued were Michael Olexa, Hazleton; Joseph Fidishin, Stephen Stefranko, and John Lavaraski, all of Jeanesville; Andrew Havrilla of Tresckow; William Davis, Hazleton Heights, and Paul Molnar, Beaver Meadow.

Olexa and Molnar were the two men taken to the hospital. Both showed the effects of the long wait.

Broad smiles lighted the faces of the seven. Not one admitted he feared for his life during the 18-hour imprisonment.

"We felt sure we would be released," was the typical comment.

Some of the men had remains of their noon lunch with them and they divided it with the oth-

ers when they began to get hungry. Each had his miner's lamp to furnish light in the rock hole prison.

A rock hole is an opening drilled through rock to reach adjoining coal veins.

Two men rode to safety Thursday on the face of the wall of water that deluged the mine.

The water poured down with a roar from a break in the top of the mine. It rushed through the tunnels. It rose toward the roof. The swirling flood bore Bernard McAlarney, a miner, and George D. Schutter, assistant superintendent, both of Hazleton, to a point of safety.

Then the waters, coming from a "stripping" basin above, subsided, falling away through the mine's natural drainage system.

McAlarney and Schutter hurried to the surface—drenched but uninjured.