

Rescued Mine Trio All Okeh

BEAVER DAM, Ky. (UPI) — Three miners, rescued from a 41 hour ordeal in a caved-in hillside coal mine, rested today and were apparently in good shape.

The three were freed early Sunday when a mechanical coal mole ground through 496 feet of earth and rocks into the 12 by 120 foot room in which they were stranded.

Officials said the cave-in occurred when rocks over the men shifted down and closed off mine entrances.

"We never gave up," said Earl Bennett, 50, Taylorsville, Ill. "All three of us prayed. The thing we missed most was the sunshine and the stars."

Bennett, a survivor of the West Frankfort, Ill., mine explosion that killed 22 persons in 1922, said he plans to return to the mines.

"I've been a miner all my life," he said.

Don McClernon, 53, Pana, Ill., said he would take it easy for a while before going back to work.

"I'm going to take a vacation and I may get me a white collar job," he laughed.

Kentucky Mine Trio Rescued

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