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GOOD EVENING
The eyes of the world are on two rugged coal miners whose patience and calmness never wavered in the face of impending death.

Evening Herald.

THE WEATHER
Fair and cool today, tonight and Tuesday. A little warmer tomorrow. Sunny today and Tuesday. Slight winds tonight.

94th Year, No. 201. | 10-12 SOUTH JARDIN STREET TELEPHONE 448-2777 | SHENANDOAH, PA., MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1963. | 45c WEEKLY BY CARRIER $1.70 MONTHLY BY MAIL | SEVEN CENTS

Big Reamer Bit Reaches Two Miners

Trapped Coal Miners Are Two Rugged Men

By RUSS GREEN and MYRON FEINSILBER

SHEPPTON, Pa. (UPI) —Two rugged coal miners, trapped 331 feet underground for two weeks, may ascend to sunlight from their subterranean prison today in a torpedo-shaped escape capsule.

Weary but hopeful rescue workers before dawn passed the halfway mark in the final stage of drilling operations aimed at enlarging the 12-inch hole at the chamber where David Fellin, 38, and Henry Throne, 28, were trapped.

Drilling was halted periodically for about an hour to allow sections to be added to the so-called "stem," the pipe through which ground-up rock may be drawn from the hole to the surface.

Three delays of this nature have occurred since midnight, the latest starting at 6:20 a.m. EDT and ending at 7:24 a.m. At this time the drill being used to ream the hole to a diameter of 17½ inches had reached a depth of about 230 feet.

The first 38 feet of the rescue shaft was enlarged to 30 inches Sunday, then a 26-inch wide steel casing was inserted in that section of the hole to reinforce its walls, and reaming with the 17½ inch bit was started.

In a separate rescue effort, drilling for a third miner, Louis Bova, 42, stopped shortly before 6 a.m. at a depth of 140 feet when water was encountered. The drill, driven by compressed air, will not operate in water.

A rescue worker said five diamond bits, worth $300 each, had been worn out since midnight in drilling the three-inch hole to the spot where Bova was thought to be trapped. The hole was not expected to be finished before Tuesday.

Bova, who was with Fellin and Throne when the mine shaft they

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Rescue Scene

Endless Dust Clouds Belch Over Pulverized Coal Field

SHEPPTON, Pa. (UPI) — Imagine a football field doubled in size with mud where the grass should be and the mud covered with gray dust so thick that a footstep produces a cloud.

Cover the field with an incredible tangle of rusty pipelines, ropes, timber, yellow wires and rubber tubes. Then set up two huge rigs belching endless streams of smoke that turns men gray and throats dry.

People the field with scores of tobacco - chewing men wearing overalls and steel helmets.

That's the area around the Fellin mine where David Fellin, its half-owner, Henry Throne and Louis Bova are buried.

On the field's north side, dig a gully several hundred feet deep. One side is so steep that steps had to be carved in it to give rescuers access to the mine.

At the far edge of the gully, place three or four wooden folding chairs. They are reserved for the kin of the trapped men who come at dawn and leave past dusk and sit in silence or whisper to neighbors and friends.

Under the tallest rig, which rises 80 feet, think of a hole, 30 inches in diameter. It is not visible for the thundering drill sits above it, pulverizing stone into dust of the consistency of flour. From this hole, Fellin and Throne are to emerge.

Twelve feet away, a smaller rig drills a smaller hole, three inches in diameter, probing for Bova, who may not be alive.

Scattered here and there are five more holes, almost hidden, almost forgotten, covered with timber, the results of previous probes which ended in failure.

Dig one more hole and cover it with canvas. Through this hole —No. 1—has passed an incredible assortment of goods—ice cream and brandy, soup and socks, axes and chocolates. Run some wiring down the hole and stretch the wires to a tent on the field's north edge, dangerously close to the gully, and string another wire to a loudspeaker.

Through this Fellin and Throne

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Colliery Working Time

WORKING TUESDAY
Midvalley, Mammoth, St. Nicholas Central Breaker, St. Nicholas Fine Coal Plant 2 Shifts, Pine Forest Stripping, Buck Run, Maple Hill Cleaner Plant, St. Nicholas Retail Pockets, Mt. Carmel Ramp, Cappwell Breaker and Stripping.

IDLE TUESDAY
Oak Hill Cleaner Plant, Gilberton Breaker and Pockets.

Shell Explodes And Kills Youth

Leonard Rutkowsky

Demolition men from Indiantown Gap were examining a large shell that exploded in a garage and killed a Mahanoy City boy on Saturday afternoon.

Leonard J. Rutkowsky, son of Joseph and Anna Rutkowsky, Mahanoy City, was found dead in the garage by his mother.

The ten-year-old boy lost his life when a souvenir 35 mm anti-aircraft shell exploded in his hand.

Mahanoy City Police said the boy apparently removed the nose

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Union President Says Mine Unsafe In the First Place

William A. (Tony) Boyle, president of the United Mine Workers Association said Saturday that the Oneida Slope No. 2 of the Fellin Coal Company where three men are entombed was unsafe in the first place.

During a visit to the scene Saturday morning, Boyle said that "this tragedy demonstrates to the people we have to have these so-called shocks to remind us that coal miners are dying in this State every year and Congress is doing nothing about it. We are striving for legislation to save the lives of miners in this country."

The UMW chief said he had faith in members of his association at the scene but came to get a first hand look. He said he was satisfied with the progress and hasn't given up on the third man, Louis Bova.

"For all practical purposes these men were buried alive until the UMW moved in here to get them out," he declared.

Direct Quotes Reflect Drama at Mine Slope

Easily one of the biggest news stories so far this year, thousands upon thousands of words have already been printed and broadcast describing the mine cave-in at the Fellin Coal Co., near Sheppton, which occurred two weeks ago tomorrow.

But the drama, excitement, danger —and even the unexpected humor— of the situation is best reflected in the direct quotes between the trapped men and rescuers, as well as other principals on the scene.

Following are the highlight quotations of the last 13 days:

"At least 100 feet of slope is choked off by falling coal": William Rachunis, supervisor of Federal Mines District A, commenting on his evaluation of the slope the day following the cave-in.

"It may take 30 days to drive a new mine slope": H. B. Charmbury, secretary of mines, commenting on the possibility of driving a new mine slope to the entombed men.

"About 11:15 p.m. (Wednesday night, August 14) the fall started all over again and continued into yesterday morning at 11": Gordon Smith, deputy mines secretary, describing a second fall at the Oneida Slope.

"They may have escaped by reaching the gangway 60 feet up from the bottom of the slope": Joe Fellin, prior to the start of drilling operations.

"Gordon Smith risked his life going into the mine to get the measurements we needed so we could calculate where to drill": H. B. Charmbury.

"I went down as far as was humanly possible": Gordon Smith, describing his trip down the dangerous slope to get the necessary measurements.

"Who's calling?": Dave Fellin's first words to rescuers.

"I damn near fainted": Gordon Smith, describing his reaction to Fellin's first words.

"They're alive!": John Biros, of Sheppton, a friend of Fellin's, one of the first to be in contact with the men.

"Thank God we hit it on the first try": H. B. Charmbury.

"I'm not sick, mom. How are you?": Dave Fellin's first words to his wife.

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Outline Daily Developments At Mine Since Entombment

Important developments at the Oneida No. 2 mine slope near Sheppton, are outlined briefly since three men were entombed by a fall on Aug. 13. Tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock marks two complete weeks since the miners were trapped by a fall of coal and rock in the mine slope.

* * *

Tuesday, Aug. 13

This morning at 9 o'clock a rock fall trapped three anthracite miners at the Fellin Coal Co. mine near Oneida. One of the trapped men is David Fellin, 38, a co-owner of the operation. Trapped with him were Louis Bova, 42, Pattersonville, and Henry Throne, 28, of Sheppton. Fellin is also a resident of Sheppton. Tons of rock, coal and debris fell. The men are 331 feet below the surface.

* * *

Wednesday, Aug. 14

More falls of coal and rock and the constant flow of deadly gas known to veteran miners as "Black Damp" forced rescue workers to retreat in their search for the three miners. Hope for the trapped men dim as the recurring coal slides hampers the possibility of rescue work.

* * *

Thursday, Aug. 15

There was still no sign of life. But for the families of the entombed men, there was hope. The rescue operation remained at a standstill up to now. Plans were to fill in the slope and dig a new shaft into the mine. Feeling this would bury the men, the families would not consent. Instead, they clung to hope and their own beliefs, that the men had escaped the cave-in possibly by finding refuge in an old gangway. Shifting of the earth imperiled rescue teams, and the accumulation of deadly gases was another major detriment.

* * *

Friday, Aug. 16

Rescue workers called a temporary halt to their work with nearly everyone but the families of the trapped men giving them up for dead.

* * *

Saturday, Aug. 17

State and United Mine Workers of America officials decided to drill small holes in the mine slope to try to contact the miners. They hoped to reach a gangway and tunnel which have been abandoned for years—and up to now seems the only possible means of escape.

(Continued on Page 8)

Doctors to Study Human Affects Of Entombment

HARRISBURG (UPI) — Medical researchers will study how long periods of underground entrapment affect human bodies when they examine the men being rescued from the collapsed mine near Hazleton.

A survival expert from the U.S. Navy is at the scene of the cave-in at Sheppton to work with medical personnel of Hazleton State General Hospital. The results will be forwarded to the National Institute of Health, an arm of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Public Welfare Department has ordered Hazleton State placed on emergency stand-by basis to care for the men and special facilities have been set aside for them. They are expected to be brought to the surface today.

Fellin Was Underground For Week 24 Years Ago

SHEPPTON, Pa. (UPI) —Twenty-four years ago, 65 miners staged a sitdown strike in a coal mine here and stayed underground for a week.

Among them was David Fellin, now 38, who today awaited rescue along with another miner from a mine shaft where the two have been trapped for two weeks.

And ironically, the mine shaft where Fellin and Henry Throne, 28, are entombed is the same mine where the strike took place in 1939.

This was brought to light Sunday by Frank Calovini, at present an oil burner mechanic at Niagara Falls, N.Y., but in 1939 one of the strikers and a close friend of Fellin.

"I kept reading about Davey in the papers and just had to drive down and watch the rescue operation," Calovini said. He drove back home after spending the weekend at the rescue site.

Calovini said the mine at that time was owned by the Steele Coal Co., which had claimed bankruptcy. The miners agreed to work an additional two weeks on the promise from the company they would be paid at the end of that time, he said.

When the company failed to come through with the promised checks, the miners staged the strike on the No. 2 level of the mine and bedded down on straw in an old underground mule stable.

Steam pipes provided heat, and the company sent down meals.

The strike ended when the company agreed to pay each of the men $100, Calovini said.

"Davey's a rugged guy," Calovini said. "It would take a lot more than this to stop him."

Hope to Get TrappedMen Out Tonight

The 12-inch bit, with the large 17-and-one-half-inch reamer following it just 21 inches behind, this afternoon broke through the tiny chamber where David Fellin, 38, and Henry Throne, 28, await rescue at Oneida Slope No. 2, of the Fellin Coal Company, near Sheppton.

"I can see the bit," Dave Fellin reported to the surface shortly after 3 o'clock.

The big drill, moving at an agonizingly slow speed of only about 10 revolutions per minute, continued to tediously inch the large reamer gently into the chamber as mine officials placed safety before speed and were moving slowly to avoid the possibility of sending rock and coal crashing into the small space where the two men are trapped.

Barring unforeseen developments, rescue workers expect to lift Fellin and Throne, out of their 308-foot deep prison by tonight.

The drama heightened intensely this afternoon when at 2:13 o'clock, the drill reached the plug placed in the hole earlier to prevent debris from falling into the underground chamber where Fellin and Throne await rescue. At this time, rescue workers had only six feet further to go.

Progress was agonizingly slow this afternoon, as extreme caution was used to prevent a cave-in when the drill reached the underground cave-in.

The men were told to put on oxygen masks as the drill neared them since large quantities of dust were expected to enter the chamber when the bit broke through. "And don't look up when the bit comes through," Gordon Smith advised them.

A decision to continue drilling with a 17½-inch reamer was made about 1 o'clock this morning, following a conference between Federal and State authorities as well as other mine officials on the scene.

(Continued on Page 6)

SIDELIGHTS

Dr. H. Beecher Charmbury, State Secretary of Mines, has been at the mine site close to two weeks. In order for his family, Mrs. Mildred Charmbury and children, Tommy and Debbie, to see him, they visited the rescue scene.

* * *

One female motorist tried to break the police barricade and when turned back gave the Trooper a dirty look and shouted, "You mean I drove all the way from Michigan and you're not going to let me see this sight?" The Trooper told her to head right back to Michigan, but politely.

* * *

Rumors circulated yesterday that religious services were conducted at the mine. This was not so but a radio broadcast of services was piped into the mine.

* * *

About five miles from the scene a giant power shovel is located along the Hazleton-Sheppton highway. Many out-of-state visitors noticed the great boom of the shovel and thought that this was the mine site. Hundreds of cars were parked in the area of the shovel and many sight-seers took pictures.

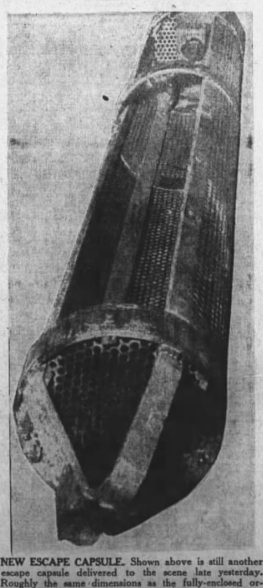
* * *

Photographers discovered it's not an easy task to take a picture of a helicopter landing. When the whirly-birds neared the ground, they created a real dust storm.

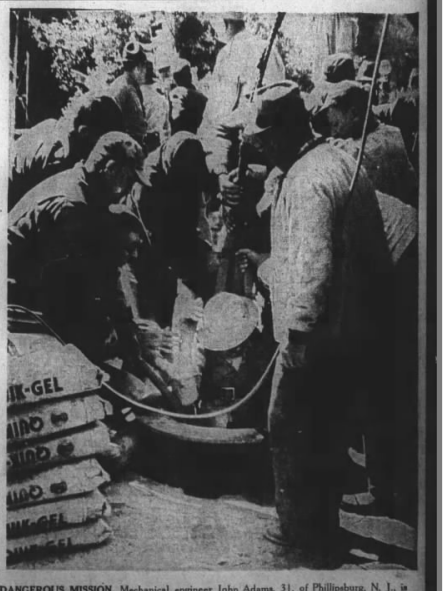
(Continued from Page 6)

SEE FULL PAGE OF MINE RESCUE PICTURES ON PAGE 9.

FAITH, HOPE, ANXIETY. All these emotions are reflected in the face of Mrs. David Fellin as the final — and dangerous — push for rescue proceeds.



NEW ESCAPE CAPSULE. Shown above is still another escape capsule delivered to the scene late yesterday. Roughly the same dimensions as the fully-enclosed original, it differs in that it is made of heavy, cast-iron screen; is completely open on one side and has no doors at the bottom.



DANGEROUS MISSION. Mechanical engineer John Adams, 31, of Phillipsburg, N. J., is lowered into a 30-inch section of the rescue opening in a parachute harness. He scooped 12 buckets of rock and clay from the opening, smoothing out a 38-foot portion of the hole.

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