

### 4 Mine Inspectors Caught in Cave-in Rescued in Safety

Quartette Have Thrilling Experience  
When They Enter Shaft in At-  
tempt to Extinguish Fire.

Murphysboro, Ill., July 29.—Four men trapped in a shaft of the Midway Coal Company's mine at Ward, 10 miles northeast of this city, when they went down to investigate a fire in the shaft, were rescued last night by a mine relief team directed by Frank Rosbottom, State Mine Inspector, of Du Quoin, Ill. The last one of the four was taken from the shaft shortly before midnight, about an hour after the other three had been liberated.

The last man rescued from the mine was Harry Laughlin, an inspector, the only one of the four who lost consciousness while entombed in the shaft, approximately 100 feet below the surface. The other three, Milo McGowan, general manager of the mine; William Forth, a pumpman, and Tom Kelly, an inspector, were able to leave for their homes after being brought to the surface.

According to Rosbottom, the fire was caused by smoldering flames, which had been sealed up in the mine last February, breaking out anew. The fire was discovered shortly before noon yesterday, and Supt. McGowan and his men descended to investigate, when they were caught behind a cave-in.

Three of the men were found standing in a small pool of water, Rosbottom said, not far from the surface, indicating they had been trapped on their way back to the surface. Three rescue teams, working in shifts, made fifteen descents before the first three were found.

Laughlin was revived shortly after having been brought to the surface.

## 1922 Midway Mine Fire and cave rescue of 4 inspectors



Clipped By:

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Tue, Jan 24, 2023

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## ***Four Men Trapped in Mine Fire Rescued***

MURPHYSBORO, Ill., July 28 (by the Associated Press).—The four men trapped by flames in a shaft of the Midway Coal Company's mine near Ward, ten miles northeast of this city, when they went down to investigate the fire in the shaft, were rescued late tonight by a mine relief team, directed by Frank Rossbottom, State mine inspector of Euquoin, Ill. The last one of the four was taken from the shaft shortly before midnight, about an hour after the other three had been liberated.

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San Francisco Chronicle, July 29, 1922