SIX RESCUED
From Flooded Mine

By Red Cross Official Using Individual Surf Boards To Bring Out Each Man.

Bridgeville, Pa., July 29—(INS)—John Komp, a Red Cross official, was the toast of Bridgeville tonight after his ingenuity and courage led to the rescue of six miners who had been trapped for nearly 48 hours in the flooded Federal colliery.

The marooned miners had descended into the soft coal pit operated by the Ollett Coal Company Tuesday midnight and were forced to take refuge on a slight incline in the shaft soon after when water from the Toms River flooded the working.

Without food save that in their lunch-pails, the miners dared not make a swim for it to the mine entrance, 500 feet distance, because certain of the trapped men were unable to swim.

The dramatic rescue was accomplished by use of individual make-shift surf boards, sent into the mine by Komp, head of the Red Cross water safety service for the Pittsburgh area.

Komp went in and after securing each man to a surfboard, one by one he led them to safety, holding each by the wrist.

As each rescued man came into sight, hundreds of friends and relatives gathered at the mine pit entrance sent up cheers of relief. None was seriously affected by his experience but all were rushed to Woodville State Hospital for first-aid treatment and rest.

Komp and E. E. Quenon, previously swam into the mine to encourage the trapped men with promises of rescue as soon as a few inches of water could be pumped out of the pit. They also carried food to the marooned miners.

The rescued men were: Henry Rheinstadler, fire boss and leader of the tiny group; Caesar Rua, Frank Albertini, Peter Carroll, John Bonassi and Albert Long, all of Avella, Pennsylvania.
6 TRAPPED MEN FOUND SAFE
But Miners and Mule Won’t Come Out Till Water Recedes.

BRIDGEVILLE, Pa., July 29.—(AP)—Six miners trapped in the Ollett Coal Company mine by a flash flood were found safe and well today after 43 hours underground.

After hearing their shouts, E. E. Quenon, U. S. Bureau of Mines engineer, swam 500 feet to reach the men, and found them sitting calmly on an upward slope above water level. Safe with them was a veteran mine mule, "Queenie."

"Because there is only six inches of clearance between the water and the mine roof, the men won’t come out yet," Quenon said.

"One man said he didn’t want to get wet. Another said—jokingly ‘we’ll get time and a half for overtime.’"

All night long pumping crews worked doggedly to lower the water level enough to permit a rescue raft to enter the pit mouth. Quenon reached the men, however, before the water was low enough to send in a raft.

One of the group which waited through the night was 13-year-old George Reinstadtler, son of Henry Reinstadtler, a mine boss who was one of the six marooned.

F. P. Ollett, president of the Ollett Brothers Coal Co., operator of the mine, identified the others as Frank Albertina, Cesare Rua, Peter Carroll, John Bonassi and Albert Long. All live near the mine, which is 12 miles from Pittsburgh.