Daviess Miner, Lost 4 Days, Rescued From 155-Foot Pit

‘Just Sat and Waited,’ He Told Rescuers

Special to The Courier-Journal.
Owensboro, Ky., Oct. 17.—Dolar Johnson, 54, lost in the Lilly Meade Coal Company mine near here since last Thursday, was rescued alive today and, apparently, had suffered no ill effects from being without food or water during that period.

Johnson, a miner of twenty-five years’ experience, was lost 2,500 feet from the shaft when his carbide lamp went out.

“Here I am, here I am. I knew you’d find me,” Johnson called to W. E. Wheeler, Lexington, senior State mine inspector; R. L. O’Bryan, Jr., foreman and son of the owner of the mine; George Bivens, Bill Smith, Jesse Stinnett and Enos Allen, members of the searching party which found him.

He told his rescuers he was not hungry as he was taken out of the pitch darkness of the pit. He drank some water as he sat in the office building awaiting arrival of his sisters, Mrs. J. W. Flick, 1409 E. 19th, to whose home he was taken to rest, and Mrs. E. Ensor, 1420 E. 19th. A brother, James Johnson, an employee at the Knights of Columbus home, already had appeared on scene to greet him.

Queen Mary May Attempt to Dock Without Tugs

New York, Oct. 17 (AP)—Docking of the mammoth liner Queen Mary under her own power, a feat similar to threading a needle with a full-grown camel, may be attempted tomorrow morning as the result of a strike of 2,000 tugboat workers.

Plans for the emergency experiment were announced tonight by the Cunard White Star Line, whose 81,235-ton flagship, speed queen of the seas, must inch slowly and tediously, pivoting on a right angle into her moorings, even with the aid of puffing tugs.

Maneuvering of the ponderous steamer into the narrow North River berth, never before attempted without tugs, was sched-

home. “Not one man in a thou-
sand would have done that. Most men would have wandered around and lost their minds.”

Johnson had not lost track of the time. When he emerged from the pit he asked, “It’s Monday, isn’t it?”

“I didn’t have a watch, but I could hear the automobiles rolling around,” he explained in telling why he believed the day was Monday.

The automobiles to which Johnson referred were the hundreds which have brought spectators to the mine. The search got under way a short time after he was found to be missing when the miners emerged from the pit Thursday afternoon.

Miners who had been in the mine Thursday went back in that night and searched for Johnson. Others went in Friday and moved coal which had been shot, in the belief they might find his body under it. When that was shoveled from one place to another, R. L. O’Bryan, owner of the mine, ordered the coal removed to the surface to make certain Johnson’s body had not been overlooked.

Dr. Lee Tyler, Jr., who examined Johnson when he was brought up from the 155-foot depth, said he was in good physical condition. “His heart is as strong as anyone’s here,” the physician said.

The Courier Journal, October 18, 1938