

# Lost Miner Is Rescued After Two Days In Shaft

PINCKNEYVILLE, Ill., Dec. 7. —(AP)—A clean, sweet current of air, sweeping through a dark maze of tunnels, led 28-year-old Lawrence Lee to safety today after he had been lost in a coal mine for 41 hours.

The mine bookkeeper, who disappeared in the Briar Hill workings Sunday afternoon, had the presence of mind to follow the current until he reached an air shaft in an adjoining mine, one of several connected by a labyrinth of tunnels covering eight square miles.

Diggers coming to work heard his shouts from the bottom of the shaft. Lee, who had crawled in complete darkness most of the

time he was underground, told his rescuers:

"I was pretty scared until I came across the current of fresh air. Then I knew I could follow it until I came to the air shaft."

"Fagged out," his clothing ripped and his legs torn and bleeding, the young bookkeeper was taken home and put to bed to rest. His wife and their small daughter had maintained a constant vigil at the mine entrance while rescue squads searched the rambling tunnels.

Lee's cousin, Deputy Sheriff Howard Lee, relayed this first-person account from the rescued man:

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"I went into the mine to explore some new workings and to bring out some empty powder kegs. I counted the rooms as I went so I wouldn't lost my way. Coming back, however, I miscounted somehow and got lost.

"I wandered around until my carbide lamp went out. Then I lost my matches. The only light I had was the sparks from the flint in my lamp. I flashed the flint occasionally, but finally it wore out. I lost all track of time and became extremely hungry.

"I wandered into the tunnels of the No. 6 (Beaucoups) mine, where the fans were operating. As soon as I felt the current of air, I knew I could find my way out by following it. I crawled along with the wind blowing in my face until I came to the air shaft.

"I shouted up the shaft. Then they called down from the surface and I told them who I was. They told me to wait there. Then they came down the main shaft and got me."