

2 Men Rescued In Area Mine; Mule Still Inside

**Workers Dig Through
60 Tons of Material
On Sharp Mountain**

One miner was rescued after ten hours of digging and another after seven hours yesterday, but a mule was still entombed in the independent mine near Pottsville this afternoon.

Robert Schoffstall, 42, suffered a possible fractured skull, abrasions of the right temple and a fractured left leg. He was reached by rescue workers after remaining entombed seven hours. His condition today in the Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville, was reported good.

Frank Bosack, Jr., 23, the other trapped miner, crawled out of the independent mine on Sharp Mountain, after diggers drove through sixty tons of rock, crushed timber and debris in ten hours.

Believe Animal Alive

"Pete," the mule, is still in the mine, about 1,000 feet below the surface. Rescue workers expect to reach him late this afternoon and were confident the animal is still alive. "Pete" is one of a vanishing species of anthracite workers. There are only about twenty of his kind left in the southern sections of the five-county anthracite fields.

The mine is operated by Bosack's father. Schoffstall was taking two empty mine cars into a tunnel when fellow workers set off a dynamite blast that caused the roof to fall. Schoffstall's two legs were pinned by the fall. His mule was trapped with him.

Immediately after the fall oc-

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2 Men Rescued In Area Mine

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Occurred yesterday morning, rescue workers went to work. Bosack, the smallest man employed in the mine, wriggled through a 15-inch opening.

"I began working to get Schoffstall free when a second fall of dirt came," Bosack said later. "The dirt covered Schoffstall almost completely and cut off my escape route. I went further back and tapped on an air pipe to let the guys outside know I was all right."

Word of the entombment spread rapidly through the area. Approximately 60 volunteers were on the scene to lend their help within a few minutes.

Union and non-union miners worked side by side, chipping the debris loose with small hand tools and then scooping it out with their hands.

'Unwritten Law'

"There's an unwritten law never to let a buddy inside a mine," one of the workers said. "When something like this happens we don't think about anything but getting them out. We forget unions, overtime pay and strikes. Minutes count at a time like this, you know."

Schoffstall was reached seven hours after the cave-in. His miner's helmet, however, was crushed by timbers. His head was bruised when the rescuers pulled him out of the helmet.

Bosack remained three more hours behind the barrier, pacing back-and-forth and praying. "I slept a little too," he said.

Bosack was trapped with the mule Schoffstall was driving into the mine when the cave-in occurred. He shared his canteen of water with the mule, realizing that the water might save his life.

"It was awfully cold in there,"

Bosack said. "They got me out like I got in—through a small hole. Pete was too big to get through."

"I felt sorry for him. Every time I turned on my lamp, the mule would look at me very pitifully. When I took a drink of water from my canteen he looked so sad I poured some into my hand and gave Pete a drink."

Two men rescued with mule 2

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Miners Save Two From Cave-in, But Pete the Mule Balks Them

POTTSVILLE, Pa. (UP)—Two anthracite miners gave thanks for their lives today to 60 coal diggers who clawed away 60 tons of coal, timbers and debris with their bare hands to reach them where they were trapped by a cave-in.

But the rescuers have another job today. They are trying to reach Pete the mule who is still trapped alive 1000 feet inside Sharp Mountain.

Robert Schoffstall, 42, and Frank Bosack Jr., 23, became trapped yesterday morning in a mine operated by Bosack's father.

Schoffstall, a mule driver, was taking two empty mine cars into the horizontal tunnel of the mine when fellow workers set off a dynamite blast that caused the roof to fall. Both his legs were pinned by the coal fall. Trapped with him was his mule.

Fellow miners began rescue work immediately. They tried to crawl through a small hole in the debris which blocked the tunnel, but the opening wasn't wide enough. Young Bosack, the smallest man employed in the mine, was called and managed to wriggle through the 15-inch wide opening.

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Pete the mule saved from mine

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Mule Helps Workers And Gets Out of Mine

"Pete," the mule in the mine, was rescued yesterday. The animal was trapped with two men, who were rescued earlier, inside a mine on Sharp Mountain in the Pottsville area.

The mule assisted greatly in his rescue. He kicked and pawed his way through fallen rock and coal while rescue workers drove from the outside toward the entombed animal.

After the opening was made the mule squeezed through and crawled out of the underground operation on his own power, a distance of about 1,000 feet.

Robert Schoffstall, 42, one of the rescued men, is a patient in the Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville, where his condition was reported good today.

Frank Bosack Jr., 23, the other rescued mine worker, was not hurt.

Mule Helps Workers Rescue

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