

Wedged in 11-Inch Shaft

40 Rescuers Save Child Trapped in Mine Hole

Gilberton, Pa.—(AP)—Five-year-old Laura Mae Heiser fell down an 11-inch-wide strip mining test hole yesterday and screamed hysterically for 90 minutes until 40 rescuers yanked her free on their sixth try.

Navy Transport Catches Fire

Oakland, Calif. — (AP) — The Navy transport *Daniel Sultan* caught fire shortly before 10:30 p. m. last night while tied up along side a Moore Drydock Company pier.

UN Troops Smash Tank-Led Reds

Seoul — (AP) — UN troops smashed an attack by 400 tank-led Reds in a slashing, 5-hour hand-to-hand fight on the Korean Central front last night.

A U. S. 8th Army briefing officer said 76 attackers were killed in the battle near Kumsong.

The Chinese Communists opened up at dusk, firing on an Allied outpost with two tanks.

About 150 Reds hit the outpost an hour later. The Reds reinforced with 250 more men. Bayonet fighting raged while both sides laid down artillery and mortar barrages.

UN troops took control and drove the Chinese off an hour before midnight.

Allied tanks held their second straight day-long shoot from fixed positions yesterday, the 8th Army reported, and destroyed or damaged 22 Red bunkers, five caves and seven gun positions.

Eleven U. S. B-29s dumped 90 tons of bombs on targets in the North Korean Capital of Pyongyang last night. Far East Air Forces said anti-aircraft opposition was meager.

Two other Superforts hammered Red battleline positions.

The Air Force said yesterday Communist night fighters of an unidentified type shot down 2 Superforts in air-to-air combat during heavy Allied bridgebusting raids on North Korean communication lines in Northwest Korea during the past week.

It was the first time in almost four months that the bomber command had announced the loss of the big four-engine B-29s which

The little girl was playing with some friends on the floor of an anthracite strip mining project 2 miles northeast of this community of 2,000 when she fell down the hole an estimated 10 feet.

The friends summoned rescuers who found Laura Mae wedged in the cone-shaped hole crying for her "Mommy and Daddy" with her arms above her head. Practically all the residents of the community, located about 62 miles northeast of Harrisburg, turned out to watch.

They lowered a rope and yelled to her to grab it. She screamed, slipped a little deeper in the hole and failed to reach the rope. Other methods of rescue were contemplated or tried and failed.

The girl's father finally calmed her with: "Don't be scared, Honey, put up your hands and grab the rope."

Finally, the rescuers slid two long steel bars down the shaft, one in back the other in front of the girl. They called to the girl to grip the bars. While she did this, the men looped a heavy rope over the surface ends of the bars and let it fall back to the bottom of the pit. Then they drew it tight and raised the girl to the top, as if on an upright stretcher.

As she brushed clear of the sides, a worker shouted, "Stand clear, she's free!" A roar from the crowd greeted the appearance of the bruised and shocked girl who stumbled to her feet and ran to embrace her parents.

A doctor examined her and she was taken to Ashland State Hospital, where attendants said her condition was satisfactory. They said she suffered brush burns and shock.

The Gilberton Coal Company owns the land where the incident occurred. Elmer Christ, company superintendent, said the hole is one of several used to plant explosives which blast loose the strip or waste material from which anthracite is salvaged. No explosives were in the hole at the time, he added. Christ said the holes are usually covered and he said he couldn't understand how the girl managed to fall in the hole.

Estimates of the hole's depth ranged from 18 to 32 feet.

1953 Jan rescuers save child trapped in mine hole

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Nov 17, 2024

RESCUED FROM MINE DRILL HOLE



Five-year-old Laura Mae Heiser, of Gilberton, relates story of her ordeal to Nurse Rose Ivanoski at Ashland State Hospital, Pottsville, after child was rescued from mine stripping drill hole 22 feet below the surface where she was trapped 90 minutes. Hole was less than a foot in diameter.

Child Trapped 90 Minutes In 11-inch-wide Test Hole

Gilberton, Pa., Jan. 18 (AP)—Five year old Laura Mae Heiser is resting comfortably in Ashland Hospital today following her harrowing experience in an 11-inch-wide strip mining test hole.

Forty youngsters worked feverishly yesterday to free the tiny youngster who screamed hysterically during the 90 minutes she was trapped.

The girl fell into a hole an estimated 10 feet deep while playing with a group of friends on the floor of an anthracite strip mining project two miles northeast of this small town of 2,000.

The youngster was crying for her "mommy and daddy" when rescuers, summoned by her friends, found her wedged in the cone-shaped hole. Her arms were pinned above her head.

The rescue was watched by all the residents of this community, located about 62 miles northeast of Harrisburg.

The men lowered a rope and told Laura to grab it, but the child screamed, slipped a little deeper into the hole, and failed to grasp the rope.

The girl finally calmed down when her father told her, "Don't be scared honey, put up your hands and grab the rope."

After several other rescue attempts failed, the men slid two steel bars down the shaft, one in front and the other in back of the girl. They told the youngster to grab the bars. When she did this, the men looped a heavy rope over the surface ends of the bars, and let it fall slack to the bottom of the hole. Then the rope was drawn tight, and the child was raised to the surface, as if on an upright stretcher.

When she cleared the surface a worker shouted, "Stand clear, she's free." The onlookers cheered the appearance of the little girl, who tumbled to her feet and ran to hug her parents.

She was examined by a physician

and taken to the Ashland Hospital.

The land on which the incident occurred is owned by the Gilberton Coal Company.

According to Elmer Christ, company superintendent, the hole is one of several used to plant explosives to blast loose the strip or waste material from which anthracite is salvaged.

No explosives were in the hole at the time, Christ said. He said he couldn't understand how the girl had fallen in the hole since they are usually covered.

Seventh Day Adventists Convene in Scranton

Annual church officers convention of Seventh Day Adventists opened yesterday at the Scranton church. Delegates represent 11 communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Delegates discussed the annual summer camp meeting convocation in July, a Pan-American Youth Congress in June, summer junior camps in August and the annual missions campaign in April.

T. Edgar Unruh, president of East Pennsylvania Conference, was presiding officer.

Daniel A. Ochs, president of Columbia Union of Adventists, presented the devotional topic, "Responsibility of Church Leadership."

500 Legion of Mary Members at Reunion

Five-Year-Old Pulled From Old Mine Hole

Opening Only
11 Inches Wide

GILBERTON, Pa., Jan. 19-(AP)-The frightful experience of being trapped in a 10-foot-hole the size of her body still haunted five-year-old Laura Mae Heiser today as she rested in a hospital.

Little Laura Mae fell into the 11-inch-wide cone-shaped hole Saturday while playing with friends on the anthracite property of the Gilberton Coal Co. Her tiny body was wedged tightly, and her arms were pinned above her head.

For 90 minutes, as rescuers struggled to free her, Laura Mae screamed hysterically. Finally, using two steel cars and a rope, the tot was pulled to the surface.

The rescue efforts attracted nearly all of the 2,000 residents of Gilberton, some 60 miles northeast of Harrisburg, the state capitol.

Laura Mae was taken to nearby Ashland hospital, suffering from shock and numerous cuts and bruises. Her condition is good today.



RESCUED: — Five - year - old Laura Mae Heiser of Gilberton, Pa., lies in a hospital bed Saturday reminiscing over her escapade of falling 22 feet into a mine stripping drilling hole while playing. She was trapped for 90 minutes before being rescued. She suffered only from shock. (AP Wirephoto)

