Five-year-old Laura Mae Heiser of Gilberton, relates story of her ordeal to Nurse Rose Ivanovski at Ashland State Hospital, Portville, 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. 18th—Five year old Laura Mae Heiser is resting comfortably at 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 youngsters 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 mine 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 conical 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 it fell slack to the bottom of the hole. Then the rope was drawn light, 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 ree."

The rescuers cheered the disappearance of the little girl, who struggled to her feet and ran to hug her parents.

She was examined by a physician at the hospital and was given a checkup before being discharged.

Seventh Day Adventists Convene in Scranton


Delegates discussed the annual summer camp meeting convention in July, the Pan-American Youth Congress in June, summer Junior camps and the annual missions campaign in April.

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

Daniel A. Orba, v. p., president of Columbia mission 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.

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