

ENTOMBED MINERS SAY FAREWELLS AS DEATH APPEARS NEAR; RESCUE

One of Two Entombed Men Works Way to Freedom After Being Trapped by Rush of Coal and Rock and Then Braves Death to Free "Buddy"

Bidding one another goodbye when they were trapped beneath a fall of coal and rock at the Enterprise colliery, Ralph Kerstetter, 38, of 830 West Pine street, and Clement Poliniak, 37, of Oneida street, awaited an anticipated second fall which they knew would completely cover and smother them, when the former suddenly detected a small aperture leading from the prison-like cell in the mines and thru which he made exit and subsequently rescued his companion, the latter having suffered numerous injuries when crushed under rock and coal. Kerstetter escaped with minor injuries.

Kerstetter and Poliniak were employed as buddies in a breast at Enterprise slope. The former was engaged in drilling a hole in rock while Poliniak was close by shoving down coal and rock when without the slightest warning the liners supporting great quantities of rock and debris broke out directly over the two workmen, pinioning them beneath.

Poliniak was buried to a point above his waist, while Kerstetter was in a more secure position. Imprisoned in the darkened underground cell, as their carbide lights had been extinguished by the unexpected rush, the two men were horrified to hear

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CHEMUNG STREET HOTEL RAIDED BY FEDERAL AGENTS

Prohibition Officers Seize 15 Cases of Home Brew and Quart of Whiskey at Saloon Conducted by Michael Somerdag

Continuing their crusade against liquor law violators here, agents of the prohibition enforcement offices at Lewisburg, on Saturday visited the hotel conducted by Michael Somerdag, 1117 Chemung street, seized a large quantity of home brew beer and placed the proprietor under arrest.

Fifteen cases of beer, found stored on the premises, together with a quart of whiskey, were confiscated by the officers.

At a hearing held this morning before United States Commissioner W. C. Marsh, at Lewisburg, Somerdag was formally charged with possession and sale of illegal beverages and furnished bond in the sum of \$2,000 for his appearance for trial in the United States district court at Scranton.

Louis Walshans of Northumberland, was also arrested by Lewisburg prohibition agents on Saturday following a raid upon his saloon at Fourth and Queen streets, that place, which netted a case of home brew



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the top over them rumbling and cracking and evidencing a second sudden rush. It was while thus imprisoned and certain of the coming of death, that the men exchanged their farewell blessings upon each other and then awaited the coming of the expected fall.

Cautiously moving one hand and arm, Kerstetter was successful in reaching to his pocket despite the tight quarters, obtained a match and lighted his carbide lamp. Slowly moving it about in search of a possible means of exit from behind the fall, the workman warned his buddy not to struggle and after a time Kerstetter was successful in making a small aperture. Gradually he widened the opening until it was of sufficient size to permit him to crawl thru.

Once free of the debris and disregarding the threatened break at any moment of the top Kerstetter quickly set about to effect the rescue of Poliniak, who was tightly held behind the shattered liners and beneath rock and coal. After considerable work, Kerstetter rejoiced in being able to extricate his painfully injured buddy, whom he dragged to a place of safety while he went to summon aid.

Both men were removed to the emergency hospital at the colliery, where their injuries were dressed, after which they were taken to their respective homes. Kerstetter suffered but slight bruises and lacerations, while Poliniak was less fortunate, having been badly injured about the legs, hips and back and it will be several weeks before he will be able to resume work. Kerstetter resumed his mining activities today.

It is estimated that the men were held prisoners in the fall for more than two hours before Kerstetter was successful in effecting an opening to make his escape and then effect the rescue of his buddy.



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