

# RESCUE FIVE MINERS ENTOMBED TEN HOURS

## Barnum Colliery Scene of Most Extensive Cave in Local Mining History—Fifteen Injured—Laborer Missing

Fifteen miners injured instantly, five imprisoned until five o'clock in the afternoon, and one man still missing—these were the results of extensive caving, brought about by robbing pillars, of the Marcy vein of the Pennsylvania Coal Company's Barnum colliery near Duryea, at 7:35 o'clock Saturday morning. A slight subsidence, the rumbling of which served as a warning, preceded by five minutes the complete caving in of more than an acre, over which the roof of the workings rested flat on the floor. The fifteen injured men were hurt by flying pieces of rock and coal flung about by the fall of the roof, and were imprisoned for an hour. Five men, after being practically regarded as lost, were found wandering near No. 9 shaft, unhurt, and led to the surface by rescue parties under Mine Inspector Robert Johnson and Thomas Huntley of Pluiston.

### Missing

Frank Cvukowski, aged 24, residing with his sister, Mrs. Eva Kirspalovh, of 534 Donnelly street, Duryea, missing since the accident and probably covered by falling rock.

had gone down by way of No. 10 shaft, and were calling and making soundings, expecting to find the men behind a heavy barrier of fallen rock, and probably inaccessible, when they came face to face with them.

### Searching For Laborer

Of one man, Frank Cvukowski, aged 24, of 534 Donnelly street, Duryea, nothing is known except that he has not been seen at his home, boarding house or elsewhere since the time of the accident. He was laborer for one of the injured miners and it is said that the miner and Cvukowski were eating lunch at the time of the disaster and the former made his escape safely. The place where they were said to be has been discovered, a solid mass of fallen debris, which must be removed if the body is to be recovered. Under the leadership of Superintendent W. P. Jennings, men were working all last night, clearing away the debris in the hope of uncovering the missing man.

### Two Distinct Caves

Twenty-eight men were at work in the vein, which is the third down the shaft, about 300 feet, going on

### Entombed Ten Hours

The five men entombed for ten hours:

Joseph Kevara, aged 45, Main street, Duryea; married, wife and several children.

Edward Cleslock, aged 35, laborer, Elm street, Duryea; married, wife and children.

Edward Bartsel, aged 37, laborer, Elm street, Duryea; single.

Leo Ritis'ky, aged 40, miner, Ch'ttenden street, Duryea; married, wife and children.

William Knopp, aged 32, company miner, Donnelly street, Duryea; married, wife.

duty about 7 o'clock Saturday morning. Most of them were in the chambers to the right of "Hill road," leading from the main shaft, which reaches the Marcy, to the No. 9 colliery, at Hughestown. There were two distinct caves. The first occurred about 7:30 and was so slight that most of the workers along the Hill road section were making inquiries as to its scope when the second gigantic fall occurred. Starting about 500 feet from the foot of the Barnum shaft, the cave embraces all chambers to the right of the main road. Beyond this section there is another big cave that cuts off the section partially from the No. 10 shaft.

### List of Injured

Michael A Ambrose, Duryea, lacerations to ear and neck.

Joseph Kosnock, 501 North Main street Pittston; head cut.

Stanley Yatus, 212 Dixon street, Duryea; right foot bruised.

John Miller, Miller Hill, Duryea; injury to head and knee.

Frank Kosnosky, 163 Lincoln street, Duryea; head cut and back bruised.

Michael Donosky, 50 Pettebone street, Duryea; left leg and left arm cut and bruised.

John Rebugos, 122 Union street, Pittston, left ankle bruised.

Angelo Delase, Searle street, Pittston; head cut.

Louis Smith, 220 Parsonage street, Pittston; head and left leg cut.

Joseph Unsuna, Dixon street, Duryea; left leg cut.

John Harrop, Star street, Pittston; head and leg cut.

Daniel Carter, 210 Mill street, head cut.

John Evans, Fourth street, West Pittston; head cut, leg bruised.

John McDonnell, Upper Pittston; back bruised.

James Lynott, North Main street, Pittston, bruised back and head.

All but one of the injured men were taken to their homes. None of them was reported to be in a serious condition. Only one victim of the accident was removed to Pittston Hospital. He is Michael Wishmesky, aged 40, of 130 Pettebone street, Duryea. He is suffering from lacerations of the head and arms

### Officials on Scene

Immediately after the cave officials of the company rushed to the scene and entered the mine to ascertain what could be done. General Superintendent W. P. Jennings, Colliery Superintendent H. T. McMillan, Thomas Huntley, Joseph Llewellyn and Mine Inspectors Robert Johnson and Edwin Curtis soon had brought up the injured men and then went down by the No. 10 colliery. With their first hand knowledge of the topography of the mine and with maps to aid them, they were well able to find their way about and conduct combing of the workings amid the debris.

Rescuing parties entered again at the Barnum shaft and at No. 10 colliery. General Superintendent Thomas Thomas of the Lehigh Valley offered his assistance along with other volunteers eager to help. It was the party lead by Inspector Olinson and Thomas Huntley which finally, late in the afternoon, brought up the men thought lost. Gangs of men worked all Saturday night and yesterday putting in cog pillars and clearing debris.

Four mine motors at the foot of the shaft and in the chambers have been covered by the fall.

None of the injured men is in a serious condition, though all are sore and suffering from shock.

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The Barnum is one of the smaller workings of the Pennsylvania Company. It has been mostly mined out and only the Marcy vein and the Clarke vein were being worked. The Marcy operations were all second mining, which means simply that the pillars were being removed, starting from the point farthest from the shaft and working in. Mine inspectors declare that pillar-robbing is the sole cause of the cave.

The colliery is one of the oldest operations. Its coal lands are in Pittston City and Duryea Borough, just east of the main highway between Pittston and Scranton. Zenus Barnum, the original holder of the land, was a pioneer farmer and active in the settlement of the city. Forty years ago he sold out to the Pennsylvania Coal Company and the colliery has been in operation ever since.