



Two mine accidents occurred on the Iron Range on March 11, 1911. The Norman Mine, an open-pit mine near Virginia, collapsed about 6 p.m. while 30 men were working 125 feet underground. Approximately 500,000 tons of debris—iron ore, rock, earth, and ice—buried 26 of the miners. Four men survived, three with serious injuries. The Duluth News Tribune of March 12, 1911, described the site on the night of the accident:

*The place that was an "open pit" 125 feet deep this afternoon is tonight an immense covered tomb of rock, iron ore and earth, with here and there parts of a body in sight or a head sticking out of the mass. Arms and legs can be made out at varying angles as the great lantern of the steam shovel is swung over a scene appearing as if it were a battlefield heaved from the infernal regions.***

<http://dplreference.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/mine13.jpg>

** <http://dplreference.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/mine-accidents-march-11-1911-2/>

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Virginia, MN mine fire, Aug 1917

Posted August 27th, 2008 by Tim Taugher

MINER RESCUES TWO FROM BURNING MINE

Virginia, Minn., Aug. 30. - Frank Mattson today became a self-made hero when he was lowered down into a burning shaft of the Lincoln mine and without mask and single handed rescued two of his fellow miners, Oscar Pakkala and Joe Reinshe, who had been overcome by the smoke. Mattson found the victims near the flames and carried both of them to the surface. All three were revived by a pulmotor. Mattson's record will go down in the history of mining industry as the greatest hero of the Mesaba mine.

The fire broke out in the exits of Lincoln mine and had trapped 200 miners. All escaped but the two rescued by Mattson. The mine has now been successfully blocked and closed and as water cannot be obtained, the operators plan to smother the flames in the timber workings. The Grand Forks Herald, Grand Forks, ND 31 Aug 1917