

## THE BOOZE TUNNEL

## CHAPTER III

## Help Needed and Secured.

The sheriff led the way into the cave. We were now going around a curve in the tunnel where the walls were lighted. We went a few steps further and we could see into the main room. I saw our friend, Roy, laying in one corner bound and almost covered with rope.

The sheriff said, "Charge boys," and we dashed forward covering the men with our revolvers but I noticed one man, who was not covered, slip through another hole and was gone before any of us could get him. I hurried out at the hole I had first seen and told the deputy to go in and make himself at home. The deputy and his men went in, so I stayed outside and watched this entrance. I picked out some bushes to lay under.

While I was laying there, to my surprise, I saw about ten men come running up to the entrance and ring up around it. I knew that I could do nothing so I lay silent. But now, in the direction of the other opening I heard a whistle blow a long blast. Then the one that seemed to be the chief of the ten, pulled out a whistle and blew two short blasts in answer. At this the men began to scramble into the cave and I knew there would follow a terrible clash.

Would all my companions be killed?

"Can I save them? I was the cause of them getting in there." I knew that the boys' mothers would soon, if they had not already, become alarmed for it was already three o'clock in the morning and there was no possible chance for them to go home before day light.

As I lay there thinking of the serious problems that confronted me,

I saw three men drag the sheriff out of the cave and leave him not far from the entrance. He was gagged and bound so that he was helpless. The men returned into the cave as if to bring out others.

This question, then three scout laws came to my mind: "Is this my chance?" "A scout is brave," "A scout is loyal," "A scout is helpful." And as they passed thru my mind, I hurried forward, took the gag from the sheriff's mouth, hurriedly loosed the ropes and set him free.

The best thing for us to do was to make for town to get aid, so we made "a bee-line" for the cars. We were soon speeding for town, and the sheriff told me that no one had been killed so far but all were under cover. He said, "If you had not been where you were I don't know what they would have done with us all."

As we rode on toward town I wondered what was taking place back at the cave. I was later told by Walt Baker that the men took out another man in the same manner as the sheriff but came back very much excited. He said that they stopped all work, (for a crowd had kept on packing booze the whole time that they were tying men), and were considering something.

He said, Criss, I thought right then that you had stirred up something for I had already missed you."

The sheriff and I were soon at town and it was 4:30 a. m.

The sheriff said, "I will call out the Home Guard," which consisted of about one hundred men. I said, "I will notify the boys' mothers not to be alarmed that we have a little business matter to attend to." This did not take me long because we

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