WARNING! DANGER, In And Around Abandoned Mines

SHAFTS a fall down an abandoned mine shaft can be deadly. The ground around the openings is often loose and inside the shaft you can bounce off the walls on the way down. Frequently rocks and timbers knocked loose by a fall can hurt or even kill. Stay away from old shafts, they are sometimes ready to collapse and take you down. Many old mines have a shaft inside a tunnel, these can be especially dangerous as you often can’t see them until it’s too late.

WATER is another hazard. Many times there will be standing pools of water inside tunnels which can conceal holes in the floor. You cannot tell how deep that water is by looking. Also there may be water at the bottom of a shaft so if a fall doesn’t kill you, you still could drown.

LADDERS in old mines are not safe.

The rungs may be missing or rotted. Ladders attached to the walls of a shaft can be very deadly as they may pull away.

BAD AIR contains poisonous gasses or not enough oxygen. Gasses can collect in low areas or along the floor. When you walk you can stir up the mixture and create a mix lethal to you on your return trip out of the mine. It takes little effort to go down into a shaft but the effort to climb out can cause dizziness, followed by unconsciousness. In either case if the gas doesn’t get you the fall it causes may.

TIMBER in old mines can be weak from decay even when it looks like it is in good condition. Mines can look solid but falling timbers are a constant danger.

CAVE-INS are always a danger. In a cave in the possibility of being crushed to death is only a little scarier than being TRAPPED.

EXPLOSIVES may have been left behind when the mine was abandoned. Never handle anything that looks suspicious. Even old pros are afraid of old explosives, old dynamite sticks and caps can explode if stepped on or even touched.

RATTLESNAKES may have made the old tunnels home, to cool off in summer, or maybe to hunt other animals. Remember any hole or ledge, especially near a mine shaft, could hide a snake, and even baby rattlers are poisonous.

FINALLY, don’t try to rescue someone yourself, if you get hurt or stuck in the process then there will be two in danger and no one will know where to look for you.

Old Man McSweeney wuz a Scotch farmer in our valley who wuzent exactly stingy, but he wuz mighty economical. Him and his three boys wuz hard-workin’ an thrifty. One day the old man fell into the well. The water wuz over his head, an cold, but he could swim. His wife got all excited and yelled down to him: “I’ll ring the dinner bell so the boys will come home an pull you out.” “What time is it?” he called up. “Bout eleven o’clock.” “No, jes let em work till dinner time. I’ll jes swim around till they come.”
TATE of OREGON
and
WASHINGTON
TERRITORY
compiled in
"BUREAU OF TOPOG. ENG."
 chiefly for military purposes
by order of
HON. JOHN B. FLOYD SEC. OF WAR.
1859

[Map of Oregon and Washington Territory with various towns and rivers labeled.]
A Diagram of Public Surveys in Oregon

Surveyor General Office
Eugene City, August 24th 1863

Scale 18 Miles to an inch.

Explanatory

A. Townships in the Survey are shown prior to date of last recorded report.
B. Townships have been surveyed prior to date of last recorded report.
C. Townships have been approved since date of last recorded report.

Explanation of the Map:

Outlines north and south.

Boundary Line between Oregon and Washington Territory.

Legend:

A. Mountains
B. Streams
C. Townships

Legend:

A. Mountains
B. Streams
C. Townships

NOTE: The map shows the early survey layout of Oregon and Washington Territory, with key geographical features and townships marked. The scale of 18 miles to an inch allows for detailed examination of the land division and survey progress as of August 1863.
A Map of
Lewis and Clark's Track
Across the Western Portion of
North America,
from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean,
By Order of the Executive of
The United States
in 1804, 5 & 6.

Copied by Samuel Lewis from the Original Drawing of W. Clark.