

and another adjoining house, occupied by Manus Waters, was lifted from its foundation. These houses were directly over the Anticline or the beginning of the North Basin, with an interval of 350 feet of rock cover between the surface and the E vein.

The ground in this vicinity was cracked, out of which gas exuded and was ignited from the Williams house fire. The house fire was caused by one of the family going into the cellar and striking a match. The fire at the Waters house is supposed to have been caused by the ignition of gas through the cracks in the ground from the Williams fire. The fire gained such rapid headway in the Williams house, that it was impossible for a daughter, Maggie Williams, to escape. It appeared that she was in the basement or cellar, at the time of the breaking out of the fire. She was burned to death.

By this time the main return was found heavily charged with CH_4 , CO_2 , and wood smoke, showing the evidence of a fire in the mine. Explosive gas was also found exuding from the cracks in the ground on other portions of the surface in the affected area.

On the following day the mules were removed from the mine. The squeeze still continued, and careful watch was kept on the situation. Emergency fans were constructed—a twenty foot suction fan at the E vein upcast, and double 8 foot blowing fan at the mouth of No. 1 Slope. Every indication pointed to a continuance of a fire, but owing to the caved ground the location could not be reached.

The mine also continued to give off an amount of explosive gas.

The squeeze also continued and it was finally decided after a consultation between State Mine Inspector and officials of the Coal Company to seal off the affected district and flood the lower levels.

Accordingly on the 15th of August, the intake and upcast were sealed off and the fan stopped. An emergency pump was placed at Sugar Notch and a pipe line, 12,000 feet in length, laid to the Colliery. Connections were made to Spring Brook pipe and all the available water in the vicinity was run into the mine. Chemical and Shaw Machine tests were made at intervals of the gases taken from the sealed upcast of the fan, and on November 30, there being no indication of existing fire, the mine was re-opened, and the fan started. The ventilation was re-established and all the available openings cleared of standing gases. Work was started and the caved Third Lift Tunnel, at the point where Shoemaker's body was found was re-opened. At the mouth of E vein gangway, on the 20th of December, fire, however, was found. Since that time good progress has been made fighting the fire, as the caved ground is re-opened, with every indication of soon extinguishing it and with prospects of a resumption of mining at this colliery at an early date.

The task of fighting the fire was very hazardous and too much credit cannot be given Superintendent F. E. Zerby of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company for the able manner in which he conducted matters. He adopted plans by which the fire was to be extinguished, and they were executed without the slightest injury to any person. In return he was assisted by District Superintendent Thomas Jones, Mine Foreman William Williams and several other officials and workmen of the Company.

August 6, North Shaft, No. 7 Colliery, Susquehanna Coal Company, Cooper Seam, an explosion of gas occurred in which Stanley Opawa, Polish, miner, Edward Malkovski, Polish, miner, Bartek Sheelka, Polish, laborer, Michael Robolinski, Polish, miner, Michael