

## FUMES FATAL TO FIVE PLAYING IN ABANDONED MINE

*By United Press*

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 30.—Five boys are dead today and a fireman is recovering in a hospital from the effects of black damp in an abandoned mine, while officials of the United States Bureau of Mines planned to take samples of the air in the mine to determine the exact cause of death.

The bodies, those of Steve Polka, 16; Andrew Novak, 16; John Vojek, 14; Walter Kubala, 15, and Joseph Kasick, 17, were brought from the abandoned mine late yesterday. They had been playing and gathering coal in the mine.

### Mine Idle Thirty Years

Battalion Chief Saul Klein, who crawled through the entrance to rescue the youths, was overcome. He was taken out of the mine by Richard Lynch, his aide, and rushed to a hospital. He was revived.

The mine, idle for almost thirty years, had an entrance about two feet wide. The mouth had been partly blocked by a fall of debris.

The boys had climbed through the opening and made their way about 1000 feet into the chamber.

An anonymous call to police late yesterday was the first intimation they had of the tragedy. They said a woman called and, after telling that four boys had been trapped within the old mine, had hung up the receiver.

Firemen and the bureau of mines rescue car were called.

### Rescuer Is Overcome

Klein was among the first to arrive. He entered the mine without a gas mask and was overcome. Other firemen donned masks and brought the youths to the surface. Three of the boys were found near the entrance. The others were found further back. Firemen worked in relays searching for them.

A. J. Forbes, supervising engineer of the bureau of mines, examined the entrance last night. He said a larger entrance would be made today and samples of the air taken for tests.

He was of the opinion that the boys died from the effects of black damp, an odorless gas often found in abandoned workings, but the tests were to be made to determine the exact cause.