

FIVE BOYS KILLED IN ABANDONED MINE

Youngsters Entering Old
Workings to Play and
Gather Coal Perish From
the Effects of Blackdamp.

FIREMAN WHO GOES TO RESCUE ALSO OVERCOME

Bureau of Mines Officials Will
Enlarge Entrance and Make
Tests of Air to Determine
Exact Cause.

(By United Press.)

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 30.—Five boys are dead today and a fireman is recovering in a hospital from the effects of blackdamp 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, aged 16, Andrew Novak, aged 16, John Vojick, aged 14, Walter Kubala, aged 15, and Joseph Kasick, aged 17, were brought from the abandoned mine late yesterday. They had been playing and gathering coal in the mine.

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 aid, and rushed to a hospital. He was revived.

Idle for Thirty Years.

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 1,000 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 and been trapped within the old mine, had hung up the receiver.

Firemen and the bureau of mines rescue car were called.

Klein First to Enter.

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 blackdamp, an odorless gas often found in abandoned workings, but the tests were

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to be made to determine the exact cause.

Dog Carries Message.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 30.—A shepherd dog, who carried the first mute message that disaster had overtaken his young master and four companions, drooped disconsolately about the Vogick home here today, seemingly aware he had lost a playmate.

The dog, "Rover," ran from the mouth of an abandoned mine to the home of Thomas Vogick, aged 62, barking excitedly. "Rover" continued to bark until Vogick followed him to the mine where the man found his son and four other youths suffocated by mine gases.

Even at the mouth of the mine, Vogick hesitated about what to do, but "Rover" continued his barking until the father entered the mine to investigate.

Today the dog seemed to avoid visitors who called at the Vogick home to console the grief-stricken parents of John Vogick, aged 14, who with his companions died in the mine. The head and tail of the dog droops and he slinks into a corner when visitors enter.

"Rover" was with the boys, and was believed to have entered the mine with them. He carried the first alarm of the tragedy.