

**FORMER RESIDENT  
KILLED BY GAS IN  
ABANDONED MINE**

**Jack Reed, Former Hotel  
Clerk, Is Said To Have  
Entered Mine To  
Operate Still**

Carbon monoxide gas from a fire burning in an unused mine near Montgomery took the lives Sunday night of a man and a boy, both residents of the town, who had entered the mine apparently to operate a moonshine still.

The victims of the unusual accident were Elver Van Meter, 19 years old, the son of Mrs. James Butcher, of Handley, and Jack Reed, 37 years old.

One of the victims, Jack Reed, is well known in Hinton as he is a former resident having been employed as night clerk at the McCreery Hotel for a considerable length of time.

They had entered the mine shortly after nightfall Sunday through an entrance at an opposite side from the mine in which the fire had been burning in the coal for more than a year. A breeze apparently carried the fumes through the mine and to the two men.

Van Meter was overcome before he could make a move toward the outside. Reed pulled himself a few feet toward the entrance before he became unconscious.

The bodies of the two men were found when Mrs. Reed became alarmed at her husband's absence. She called Dewey Lowe, a neighbor, Monday morning and he entered the mine and discovered the bodies. State police and Coroner W. F. Work investigated. There will be no formal inquest.

The officers said that Mrs. Reed told them her husband had entered the mine to operate a still.

The bodies Tuesday had been taken to Hooper's undertaking establishment.

Van Meter is survived by his mother, Mrs. Butcher, and his father, Pete Van Meter, of Portland. Mr. Reed is survived by his widow.

1932 Dec two killed in abandoned WV mine

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