

# Youth Killed In Abandoned Mine; Death Dream True

Nicholas Drobniak, 19, of 867 Miller street, Luzerne, was caught under a fall of coal and instantly killed today at an abandoned stripping operation in Swoyerville.

The young man with several companions was mining coal at the place when the mishap occurred. A large chunk of the mineral dropped upon him. His skull and left leg were fractured when he was removed. His co-workers escaped without a scratch.

Swoyerville police under direction of Chief Daniel Kirby removed the body and notified Russell Frederick, deputy coroner, who made an examination and pronounced that the youth died instantly.

The remains were taken to the establishment of Undertaker Charles Betz, of Luzerne, and this afternoon were removed to the victim's home.

Drobniak is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ignatius Drobniak; a brother, Paul, and three sisters, Anna, Sally and Pauline. He was widely known and held in high esteem in his community. He

was a member of several fraternal organizations.

The strippings in which he met his death were worked until recently by Morgan and Company. The operation is located just a short distance to the rear of the Drobniak residence, but across the Luzerne borough line in Swoyerville. It is believed that the land belongs to Temple Coal Company.

## Dream Comes True

A miner's dream proved true last night when a fall of rock in Exeter Colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company crushed out the life of Asbury George, 26, 132 Elm street, West Pittston.

The miner Enoch Barnoski, of Tow Path court, urged George yesterday not to venture into the mines because on Wednesday night he had a dream that George would meet with an accident.

George laughed and told his wife. "Maybe the dream will come true", she pleaded. "Take a day off from work".

Again George laughed. He didn't believe in dreams.

(Continued on Page 3.)

1932 Feb youth killed in abandoned PA  
mine

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Sep 15, 2024

## Youth Killed In Abandoned Mine; Death Dream True

(Continued From Page 1.)

Last night at 9 o'clock George was at work in the chamber loading a car of coal when suddenly the roof gave way burying him beneath it. Life had ebbed away when fellow workmen extracted his body from under the fall.

Barnoski escaped uninjured.

Besides his widow, who was Miss **Betram Miller**, George is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John George, and seven brothers and sisters, Mrs. Dora Adams, Mrs. William Walters, Bruce, Mrs. Lila Miller, Alma, Elba and Ribola.

Barnoski, the miner, is the father of little Mary Barnoski, who lost her life while playing along the Susquehanna river bank three years ago, when she sank into culm. Her body has not been recovered.

### Exeter Death

Within an hour after he had resumed his duties on the night shift force in the Checker vein, Exeter colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company, yesterday afternoon, Joseph Piatnik, aged about 67 years, one of the borough's most prominently known residents, met tragic death by being crushed beneath a fall of rock. Fellow workmen immediately went to his assistance, however he had passed away before his rescue could be effected, he having sustained a broken back, crushed chest and other internal injuries. Undertaker Morris took charge of the remains, and removed them to the bereft home, 134 Lincoln avenue, where the funeral will be held on Monday morning.

Deceased had been quite active in civic affairs of this community, he being one of the early Slovak settlers in this region. For many years he had been engaged at Exeter Colliery, and was highly esteemed by all with whom he came in contact. He was an active member of St. John's Slovak Catholic Church, and a charter member of Branch No. 7, P. S. J.

Surviving are his wife and the following sons and daughters: John, Joseph, Mrs. A. Perhach, Stephen, Edward, Michael and Julia, all of Exeter.

The funeral will be held Monday morning with a high mass of requiem in St. John's Slovak Church, Exeter. Interment will be at the Slovak cemetery at Exeter.

1932 Feb youth killed in abandoned PA  
mine

Clipped By:  
usmra\_rob  
Sep 15, 2024