

COAL FATAL

1963-0153

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
Health and Safety Activities
District I, Barbourville, Kentucky

March 5, 1963

Memorandum

To: G. W. Parry, Subdistrict Supervisor - Barbourville, Ky.

From: R. B. Jones, Federal Coal-Mine Inspector (Roof-Control)

Subject: Report of fatal roof-fall accident in the abandoned Half Mountain Coal Company, Carver, Magoffin County, Kentucky, on January 28, 1963

Lewis Mullins, who was trespassing and obtaining coal from an abandoned drift opening about 30 feet in by the portal for family use, was killed instantly by a fall of roof about 2:00 p. m., Monday, January 28, 1963. Mullins was 24 years old, single, and had about 2 years mining experience. The Bureau of Mines learned of the accident February 28, 1963, while making a routine mine inspection in the area, and the investigation was made March 4, 1963.

The mine which is about 2 miles south of Carver, Kentucky, was opened by drifts in the Hazard No. 7 coal bed, which averaged 70 inches in thickness. The mine was abandoned in the early part of 1940, and the drifts were covered with earth slides as a result of erosion. The accident occurred along the rib of an entry about 30 feet in by the portal. The immediate roof was massive sandstone with numerous hill seams present. Artificial roof support was not being used. The entry had been driven about 14 feet wide. The coal was dug off the solid by pick and transported to the surface by wheelbarrow.

Information for this report was obtained from the victim's father, Roscoe Mullins, who was working with the victim at the time of the accident.

The victim started mining coal from the opening in October 1962, and his father stated that the victim usually worked alone. However, on the day of the accident, the victim and his father entered the mine about 1:00 p. m. to obtain coal for their own use. Roscoe Mullins stated that they had loaded and transported three wheelbarrows of coal to the surface and that the victim was digging along the rib when the rock fell and killed him instantly. The victim's father summoned local citizens, and the body was removed from under the rock shortly thereafter. The rock that fell was 5 feet wide, 12 feet long and 34 inches thick.

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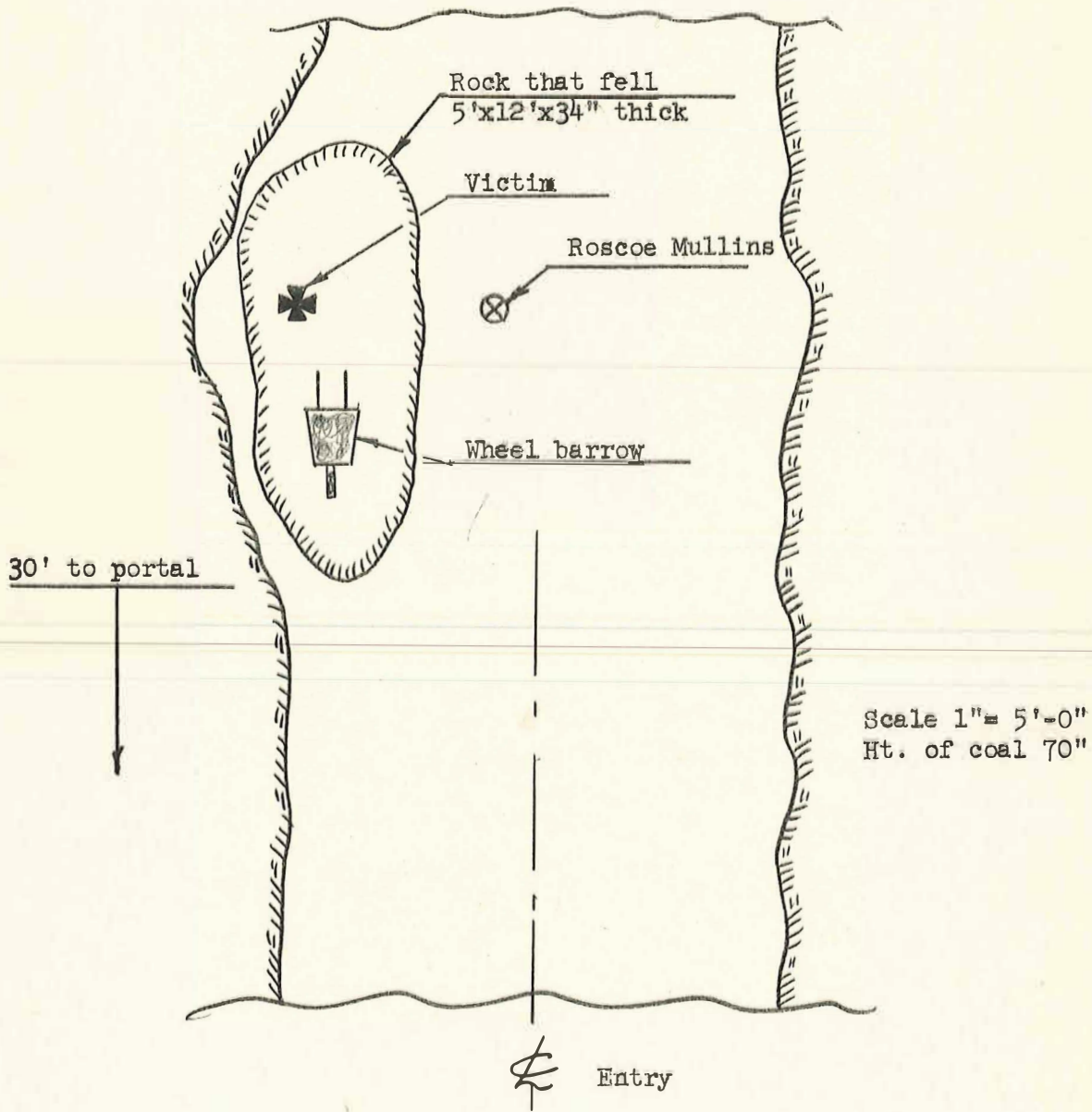
The District Inspector of Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals had posted "Danger" signs at the mine openings.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ R. B. Jones

R. B. Jones

Attachment - sketch



FATAL ROOF-FALL ACCIDENT
 ABANDONED OPENING
 HALF MOUNTAIN COAL COMPANY
 CARVER, MAGOFFIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY

January 28, 1963