

COAL FATAL

1963-0152

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

February 5, 1963

Memorandum

COAL FATAL

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

From: Dennie R. Hager, Federal Coal-Mine Inspector

Subject: Report of fatal roof-fall accident in the abandoned No. 32 mine, Peabody Coal Company, Kenvir, Harlan County, Kentucky, on February 4, 1963

Eugene Thomas, who was trespassing and obtaining coal from an abandoned drift opening 30 feet in by the portal of the No. 32 mine for family use, was killed instantly by a fall of roof about 4:00 p. m., Monday, February 4, 1963. Thomas was 33 years old and had no mining experience. He is survived by his parents. The Harlan office of the Bureau of Mines was notified of the occurrence at 4:30 p. m., February 4, 1963, by Rufus Bailey, Safety Director of the Harlan County Coal Operators' Association, and the investigation was made February 5, 1963.

The abandoned No. 32 mine is located along State Highway Route No. 215, near Kenvir, Kentucky. Main entries were driven in sets of 4, 7, or 9, 14 to 20 feet in width, in the Darby coal bed, which averaged 36 inches in thickness locally. The immediate roof was laminated sandstone, and 90-pound steel rails, set on two 2-inch pins installed in holes drilled into the coal ribs, were used for crossbars to support the roof in the area; three of the crossbars had been removed. See attached sketch.

Information for this report was obtained from the eyewitnesses, Garfield McLain and Leroy Madden who helped remove the victim from under the rock, and from a visit to the scene of the accident.

On the day of the accident, Eugene Thomas (victim), William Cloud, Donald Hudson, and Sammy Middleton entered the mine about 3:00 p. m., to obtain coal from the mine for their own use. The victim removed the pins originally used to support the crossbars and charged the holes with permissible explosives and electric detonators to blast the coal off the solid. After the shot holes were fired, the men proceeded to load the coal into burlap bags. Thomas (victim)

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and William Cloud were filling the third bag of coal when Cloud observed the rock beginning to fall; he yelled to Thomas and jumped in the clear. The falling rock struck Thomas and killed him instantly. Aid was summoned from other persons living in the area, and the body was removed from under the rock at about 6:00 p.m. The rock that fell was 8 feet 6 inches long, 4 feet 6 inches wide, and 0 to 3 feet thick.

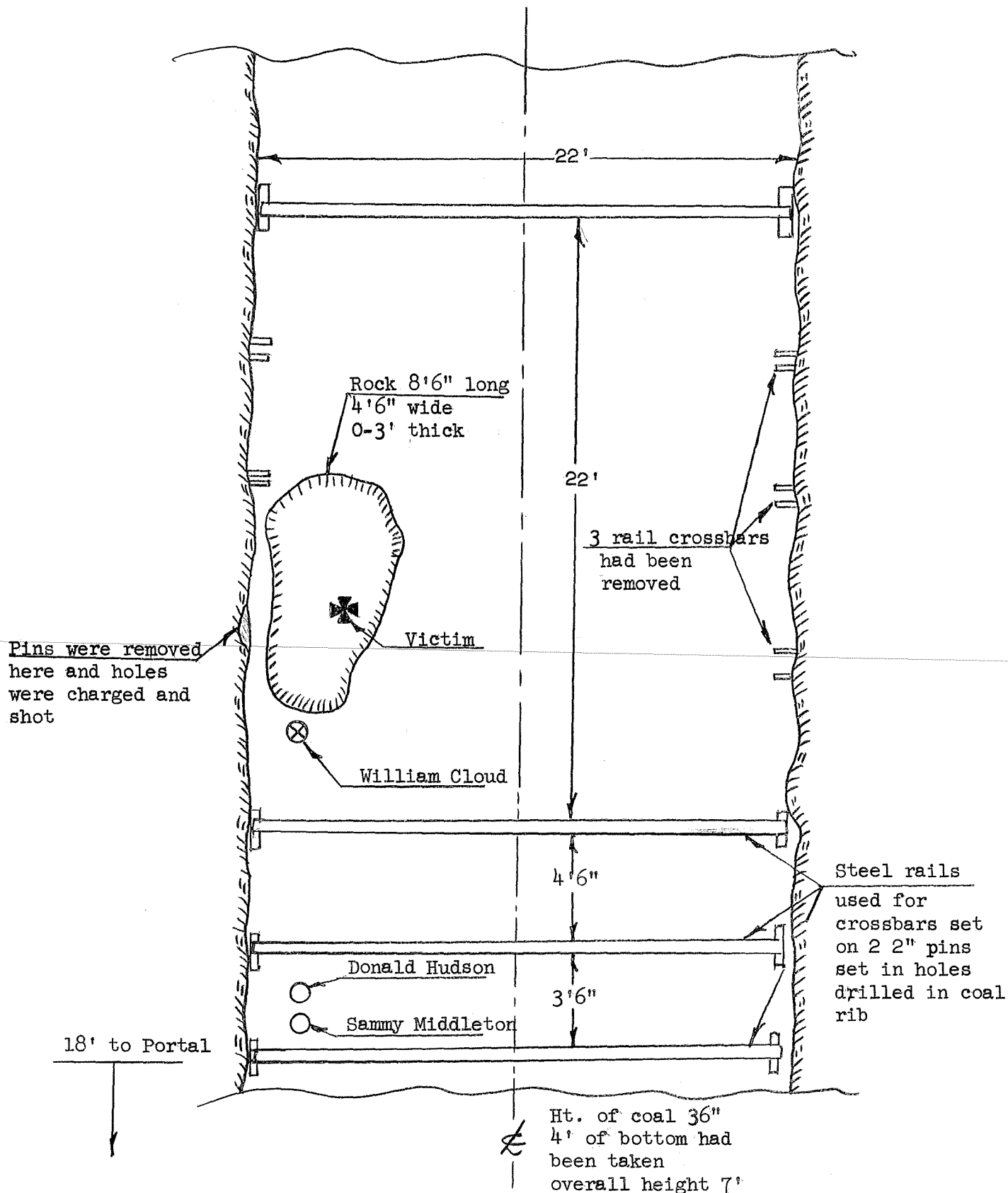
Respectfully submitted

/s/ Dennie R. Hager

Dennie R. Hager
Federal Coal-Mine Inspector

Attachment - sketch

10070



FATAL ROOF-FALL ACCIDENT
 ABANDONED NO. 32 MINE
 PEABODY COAL COMPANY
 KENVIR, HARLAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY
 February 4, 1963