

THREE MEMBERS OF FORMER  
MONMOUTH FAMILY FATALLY  
INJURED BY POWDER BLAST

Home of Albert Taylor Near Fairview Wrecked—  
Three Children Dead, Parents and One  
Child Critically Burned

Three members of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Taylor, formerly of 914 South Fifth street, Monmouth, were fatally injured, three were critically hurt and five were less seriously injured when a keg of blasting powder exploded in their home near Fairview in Fulton county about 7:30 o'clock last evening destroying the home, it was reported today in an Associated Press dispatch.

The blast and fire which followed occurred as the members of the family sat down to their evening meal. Taylor, who operates a coal bank near Fairview had brought the keg into the house for drying and it was beside a stove when it went off.

The dead were:

Lloyd Taylor, 6.  
Winnifred Taylor, 8.  
Hiram Taylor, 25.

The critically injured are:

Albert Taylor, 51, father.  
Edna Taylor, 47, mother.  
Wilfred, twin brother of Winnifred.

The less seriously injured are:

Ernest Taylor, 28.  
Evelyn Taylor, 15.  
Harold Taylor, 13.  
Helen Taylor, 12.  
Pete Taylor, 10.

All members of the family were taken to the Graham hospital in Canton as soon as possible where Lloyd, Winnifred and Hiram died during the night. The condition of the father and mother and a son Wilfred was reported to be critical.

**Saved Others.**

Hiram suffered fatal burns in attempting to drag other members of the family from the house when flames broke out in the wake of the explosion. Friends said that Hiram was the hero of the family disaster. After helping his brothers and sisters from the flaming dwelling he trudged almost one mile through snow and near zero weather to the farm home of Charles Elliott for aid.

Taylor who operates a coal bank on the George Edgely property near Fairview had taken the keg of powder into the dwelling house last evening so that it would be dry for use today. The keg, according to reports, was placed about three feet from a small coal stove which was burning. It exploded scattering fire all about the first floor of the frame dwelling. Escape to the entrance was cut off and the family was compelled to battle its way through the flames. It was while getting the younger children, who were stunned by the blast, from the front of the dwelling that Hiram suffered burns which caused his death in the hospital at Canton.

Immediately after a doctor at Fairview was notified of the tragedy he summoned ambulances from Canton and Fairview. Four ambulances and two cars were required to transport the members of the injured family to the hospital at Canton.

Although members of the volunteer fire department at Fairview attempted to save the dwelling the fire had gained such progress that it was impossible to check the flames. The dwelling and its contents burned completely.

**Lived Here.**

The Taylor family were residents of Monmouth until they moved to Fairview last fall to operate a coal bank near that village. While living here they made their home at 914 South Fifth street and worked in coal mines near Alexis for George Baker and Earl Bailey.

Mr. Taylor's mother and two of his brothers, John and Ray, are now living in Monmouth.

Other relatives of Mr. Taylor are Mrs. Mason E. Smith of Monmouth, a sister; Mrs. Leo Clausen of Oglesby, Ill., another sister; Clinton Taylor of Alexis, a brother, and George Taylor of Monmouth a half brother.

George Taylor and Mrs. Smith went to Canton this morning and according to reports from them Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were still in critical condition.

**Bring Bodies Here.**

Bodies of the victims are to be brought to Monmouth for burial after the Fulton county coroner concludes an inquest which was set for today.

Mill Creek Bottom  
In Danger of Fire  
From Floating Oil

Cincinnati, Jan. 23.—(P)—Fire Chief Barney J. Houston warned today that the Mill Creek bottom from its mouth at the Ohio River for 3 miles north to the Cumminsville section of Cincinnati, was in danger of bursting into flaming fire.

He appealed by radio to citizens to take extraordinary precautions with all kinds of flames.

Houston reported more than a million gallons of gasoline, kerosene and fuel oil floating in the water, sending heavy fumes over the surface. Railroad tank cars had broken away from their moorings and released the fuel, he reported.

Fire headquarters reported a 30,000 gallon tank of gasoline at the plant of the Gulf Refining Co. turned over and spilled its contents.

Acting Marshal Louis Purcell reported the smoking spreading in and around flood buildings. He threw a column of firemen, police and volunteers around the threatened area and issued "no smoking" orders.

WILL CONFER  
AGAIN MONDAY

MAYOR AND UNION HEADS  
TO DISCUSS CHICAGO ELECTRICAL WORKERS DEMANDS

Chicago, Jan. 23.—(A)—City officials and union leaders pondered possible compromises today to prevent recurrence of a walk-out by municipal electrical workers which plunged virtually all streets into darkness for almost three hours and ended with the suspension of the strike, which began promptly at 8 o'clock last night, followed a conference between Mayor Edward J. Kelly and union officials. They will meet again Monday to consider union demands for restoration of the 1932 wage scale.

Some 450 of the 800 electrical workers participated in the walk-out. Lights were extinguished in all streets except those under the jurisdiction of the Chicago "Vard District and the State Street "white-way" operated by merchants.

All except 17 of the city's 55 bridges were unmanned. Bridge spans were raised, paralyzing automobile and street car traffic. Bridges for elevated trains were exempted in the strike order.

Police Commissioner James P. Allahan ordered hundreds of policemen to emergency duty, and threatened to exercise "broad police powers" if necessary. Some robbers took advantage of the darkness to hold up bewildered pedestrians.

Michael J. Boyle, business agent of local 134 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, charged present wage scales were inadequate. Mayor Kelly declared the city lacked funds to meet the union's demands for restoration of the 1932 wage scales. He estimated it would cost \$192,000 annually. The mayor said there is "no chance to increase their pay because the city's budget has been drawn up."

Rainey Portrait  
Given Governor  
For State Capitol

Washington, Jan. 23.—(P)—A six-foot portrait of the late Speaker Henry T. Rainey, to be hung in the State Capitol, was presented last night to Gov. Henry Horner by the Illinois State Association of Washington.

1937 home of Albert Taylor NEWS

Clipped By:  
usmra rob  
Jul 27, 2025

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**Three members of a family are dead and eight seriously injured as the result of a dynamite blast that wrecked the home of Albert Taylor, a miner, near Fairview. Taylor attempted to dry out a keg of blasting powder near the kitchen stove while the family was grouped about the supper table.**

1937 home of Albert Taylor NEWS

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Jul 27, 2025

# COAL FATAL

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF MINES  
BY S. P. HOWELL

SUBJECT: Explosion of keg of black blasting powder in home in Illinois injuries eleven, at least seven of them fatally, January 22, 1937.

About 7:45 p.m., Friday, January 22, 1937, a keg of black blasting powder exploded in the home of Albert Taylor, R. No. 1, Fairview Fulton County, Illinois, resulting in the death of Mr. Taylor, his wife, and five children, and seriously injuring four other members of the family, two of whom may or may not recover.

Mr. Taylor and his two oldest sons operated a small slope mine on his farm, producing fifteen or twenty tons of coal per day.

This keg of powder with others had been stored in a chicken coop about 75 feet from the house, but the powder in this keg became damp and Mr. Taylor set it in the house about five or six feet from a hot stove. Some of the family were eating supper, others had completed the meal, and the two oldest boys were preparing to go outside and do the chores, and for illumination they had carbide lamps on their caps; and in some manner the keg of powder exploded, set the house on fire, and seriously burned all of the family. After considerable delay and confusion, the eleven members of the family were taken to the Graham Hospital at Canton, Illinois, where of the seven known to have died the first one died at 4:20 a.m., Saturday, January 23, and the last one at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, January 24.

A neighbor of the Taylors was also mining coal and they had both been notified sometime previously by the State mine inspector to build a suitable powder magazine a safe distance from the mine and dwelling houses, but Mr. Taylor had failed to comply with the order.

A. U. Miller, who investigated this accident, does not know whether or not the keg was open and a spark fell into it, since his information was of necessity largely second-hand. He does know, however, that electricity was not used in the home and electricity is not under suspicion. He states that it may have been that the black keg absorbed enough radiant heat from the hot stove to have caused the temperature on the inside of the keg to reach the ignition point. This is believed to be quite possible, although a glowing coal from the stove or a carbide lamp may have been the cause of the ignition. Smoking was not mentioned.

This is but one of a number of accidents which have resulted

from the reprehensible practice of storing explosives in and about homes, usually of coal miners. Definite State laws should be enacted to require the storage of explosives in magazines, and should specify the class of magazine for different quantities of explosives for all use including mining and quarrying and small operations as well as large ones. The location of such magazines should be in accordance with the American Table of Distance, 1919 revision.



*Mr. Adams*

C.M. 1362

see

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF MINES  
WASHINGTON

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM  
(Not for Publication)

March 25, 1937

TO MEMBERS OF THE SAFETY DIVISION:

SUBJECT: Explosion of keg of black blasting powder in home in Illinois injures 11, at least 7 of them fatally.

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nk  
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This information is confidential and must not be published.

S. P. HOWELL

Approved:

D. HARRINGTON