

4
JUNE 11, 1946

PIKE COUNTY

REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION

REPUBLIC MINE

EARL SMALLWOOD, WHITE AMERICAN JOY OPERATOR, AGE 34, WITH 11 YEARS' MINING EXPERIENCE WAS SO SEVERLY INJURED WHEN CRUSHED BETWEEN MACHINE AND RIB, THAT HE DIED ONE HOUR LATER. HE LEAVES THREE DEPENDENTS.

THIS ACCIDENT OCCURRED AT #3 HEADING 3D RIGHT SECTION, OFF 1ST RIGHT MAIN PILLAR BETWEEN 2D AND 3D ENTRIES.

SMALLWOOD HAD SERVED TWO YEARS AS A JOY HELPER AND HAD ON A FEW OCCASIONS ACTED AS OPERATOR. HE WAS PROMOTED TO REGULAR OPERATOR AND WAS WORKING HIS SECOND SHIFT WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

THE MACHINE WAS WORKING ON A PILLAR SECTION, AND WAS LOADING OUT OF THE FOURTH CUT FROM A BUTTOFF. SMALLWOOD WAS IN THE ACT OF LOADING THE FOURTH SHUTTLE CAR FORM NEAR THE RIGHT RIB WHEN HE BACKED THE MACHINE OUT. IN ATTEMPTING TO CROSS-CUT, HE MOVED THE WRONG CONTROLS SLEWING THE MACHINE AROUND IN AN UNEXPECTED DIRECTION MASHING HIM BETWEEN THE MACHINE AND THE RIB. TO REMOVE THE INJURED MAN IT WAS NECESSARY TO REMOVE CABLE NIPS FROM POWER SUPPLY, AS HIS BODY HAD WEDGED THE POWER CONTROLS TO THE CATERPILLAR IN AN OPEN POSITION.

INVESTIGATIONS REVEALED THAT THIS MAN HAD VERY LITTLE EXPERIENCE AS AN OPERATOR AND WAS OPERATING HIS MACHINE WITH THE SAFETY YOLK UP. THIS YOLK LIMITS THE MOVEMENT OF THE CATERPILLAR CONTROLS AND CAUSES THE MACHINE TO MOVE MORE SLOWLY. INVESTIGATIONS ALSO REVEALED THAT HIS MACHINE WAS ABOUT TWO FEET FROM THE RIB.

IT IS THE OPINION OF THE INVESTIGATOR THAT HAD THIS MAN BEEN MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE OPERATION OF THIS MACHINE AND HAD THE SAFETY YOLK BEEN DOWN, THIS ACCIDENT WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED.

RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT MACHINES BE MOVED CAUTIOUSLY WHEN RIBS OR OTHER OBSTRUCTIVES ARE NEAR THE OPERATORS' POSITION. THAT ALL SAFETY DEVICES WHICH ARE PROVIDED FOR THE WORKMEN'S PROTECTION BE USED.

E

1946 0595

COAL FATAL

COAL FATALITY
PIKE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
REPUBLIC STEEL CORP.
REPUBLIC - #11498
JUNE 11, 1946

Earl Smallwood died in an underground machinery accident.

MSHA LIBRARY
P. O. BOX 25367
DENVER, CO 80225