

RECOVERING THE DEAD

Five Bodies Taken From the 400
of the Silver Bow No. 2
Yesterday Morning

FOUR MORE AT THE 700 LEVEL

Nattio is Found Sitting on a Ladder
in an Upraise—The
Inquest.

From Sunday's Daily.

The bodies of five of the nine men who were suffocated by gas and smoke in Shaft No. 2 of the Silver Bow mine Friday morning were recovered yesterday morning, all save one being close together lying on their faces on the 400-foot level. The names of the men are Edward Pascoe, Antonio Bivaro, Evan Peugh, James Nattio and Richard Andrews. The other four bodies are at the 700-foot level and will not be recovered until the water is taken from the shaft, which will be accomplished, it is thought, by tomorrow evening. Of those found Andrews and Pascoe were taken to Harris & Co.'s undertaking rooms, those of Bivaro and Peugh went to Sherman, while Nattio was taken to McCarthy and McBratney's. The body of Nattio was discovered first about 7 o'clock. The rescuing party had gone down to the 500 and proceeded into the drift, but not finding any of the men they came back again to the upraise leading to the 400, up the ladders of which they began to climb. Nine floors above the 500 they discovered Nattio sitting on the ladder as though he had stopped to rest. The body had commenced to decompose. Being only three floors below the 400 the men concluded that it would be easier to take the body up three floors than down nine, and they acted as their conclusions dictated. On reaching the 400 they proceeded towards the station to call the cage, but in their travels they found the other four close together. The bodies were then taken one at a time to the surface.

The funeral of Andrews will take place from the residence of his brother, Thomas Andrews, 212 East Quartz street, at 2 o'clock to-morrow. Pascoe will be buried from the residence of John Toy, 606 East Park street, at the same hour. Peugh will be buried at 3 o'clock to-morrow from the family residence, 612 East Park street. Bivaro and Nattio will be buried at 4 o'clock this afternoon from their late homes in Meaderville.

T. C. Gray, one of the men at the 700, is a first cousin of John Gray, chief of police. He was a member of the several secret societies, among them being the O'd Fellows, Sons of St. George and Masons. His wife resides at 35 West Pacific street Centerville.

Extinguishing the Fire.

At 10 o'clock Friday evening it was a foregone conclusion that the fire would not drag its length much farther as the workmen had succeeded in getting into the station where it originated and keeping a stream of water playing on it. As the work progressed the fire became more and more subdued, and by 6 o'clock yesterday morning it was virtually all out. Then when the 7 o'clock men went on duty the search for the bodies began, the searching crew consisting of Messrs. Allen, Pope and Hancock. Although not the first discovered, Peugh's body was brought up first, as it was found nearer than the others to the station. From the fact that four were discovered in the 400 and the fifth in the upraise leading therefrom to the 500, it is quite evident that all intended to catch the cage at that point. Those working in the stopes above the 400 had descended, while those employed at the 500 had ascended, and with the exception of Nattio all had met where their bodies were found.

About 9 o'clock a small bunch of fire that had been overlooked was discovered at the 500 and extinguished with a chemical apparatus.

At about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon a 350-gallon tank was pressed into service in the shaft, and from that time on the water was raised therefrom at the rate of 175 gallons per minute. The east cage was also prepared for use that men might get to the pump at the 500 and put it in shape for service. As soon as the pump is started, which will have been done before this meets the eyes of the public, the task of lowering the water to the bottom of the shaft will be only a question of a short time.

The Inquest.

Joseph Gerrans, the shift boss, was the first witness called. He stated that he had been employed in that capacity at the Silver Bow about 12 months. He was at the 700-foot level of shaft No. 1 when the fire started, and he had notified all the men in that part of the mine to escape as soon as possible. The station tender first told him of the fire. After being informed of the fire Gerrans had gone all through the mine and called to the men to get out. The two shafts are connected at the 300 level of No. 2, and in the east drift from the 500 to the 300 of the same there is a raise. About 25 minutes were consumed in getting the men to the surface in No. 1. When Gerrans arrived at No. 2 the engineer was running the cage up and down, stopping at the various stations where the men were supposed to be with a view to getting them, but none got on the cage. This process was repeated several times. Joe Kramer had charge of the pumps at the 500 and 700 levels. Glass lamps and torches were used at the stations. The latter were for service in wet places.

The witness did not know how the fire started. It was to him an unfathomable mystery. From the station to the ore shoot the distance is about 300 feet and the fire originated while the carman was at the shoot. The trip from the station to the shoot and back usually occupies about 10 minutes. There is a ladder-way from the 500 and then an upraise from the 400 to the 300. The men climbed from the 500 to the 400. The upraise is in the east drift of the 400, about 75 feet from the shaft. Two of the men worked on the ninth floor, between the 300 and 400, and had they climbed up to the 300 instead of down to the 400 the witness thought they would have escaped. Two men were also working on the fourth floor above the 500, which is about 30 feet above the level. They climbed to the 400 and in the opinion of witness met the other men coming down from the ninth floor between the 300 and 400. Mr. Gerrans stated that the torches were used only by the pump-man. He thought it required about a minute and a half for the cage to ascend from the 700 to the surface.

Joseph Henworth, foreman at the mine, next took the stand and in substance said: "When the fire occurred I was at the 700 level of shaft No. 1. I went at once to No. 2 and thence back to No. 1 and ordered the men from the workings thereof. I have been employed in other mines where fire occurred. On an occasion of

that kind we do not compel men to go down a shaft, as we consider that by so doing we would be jeopardizing their lives."

John Kramer, the pumpman, followed Mr. Henworth. He was the only man who escaped from No. 2, and the marks of his encounter with the flames in making his escape were visible in the shape of two badly burned hands and face. He said:

"When the fire broke out I was at the surface; had been there nearly an hour. When I left the pump station I left a candle and torch burning. The candle was in a tin box on the wall of the pump station and the torch was on a 10x10-inch timber between the pump station and the main station. I did not know there was any fire below until I descended to the station, but I smelled smoke after getting on the cage. When I arrived at the station I found it all on fire. I stopped and considered the feasibility of fighting the blaze, but concluded I could do nothing and rang the bell for the surface. On the way down I saw a man at the 400 and spoke to him. On the way up the cage stopped at the 400, and although I did not see the man again I heard him talk. I told him the station below was on fire and he had better come out, but he told me he would have to go back and notify his partner. This man was Evan Peugh. He started back into the level and the heat became so intense at the 400 that I could stand it no longer, as I was burning. I then went to the surface and the cage was returned to the 400 for Peugh and his partner. I did not feel the burns until some time after I reached the surface."

"I think the timbers at the 300 were perfectly dry. An inch and a quarter of half hose for fighting fire was attached to the pump column at the station. As I was not at the station when the fire started I therefore cannot say what caused it. The miners were there when I left. My hands and face were burned on the way up. The former are burned on the outside. I was holding to the bar of the cage. As to the cause of the fire, in my opinion it could have resulted from a miner's candle dropping to a work bench which stood at the right side going into the pump room. This bench was saturated with oil. I think the candle was left there by one of the men, as my candle was in a tin box in the pump station. The torch was a foot or 15 inches from the shaft. I am satisfied that the torch did not explode, as there was no fire where I left it. The fire was above in the station. I usually take the torch with me when I go to the surface."

Tom C. Gray, purchasing agent for the Butte & Boston company, stated that he was in Kenyon's store when the fire broke out and had been notified by telephone at 9:55. "I procured a lot of chemicals and went to the mine where I found the men pouring water down the shaft to create a draft through the crosscut to Shaft No. 1. Nothing more in God's world could have been done by the company to save those men."

Charles S. Shoemaker, state mine inspector, informed the jury that in the official discharge of his duties he had examined Shaft No. 2 down to the 500 and had found it in good condition. "The station is destroyed," said he. "The hoisting apparatus is good. From the 500 to the 300 the escapes also are good. There is an upraise from the 500 to the 400 about 140 east of the shaft; it is a ladder-way and man-way."

Peter Hooper of 429 East Park Street—I am a miner at Silver Bow No. 1; was at home when the fire occurred.

Charles Allen, also a miner at Silver Bow No. 1, was in bed when the fire broke out; did not go to the mine until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon; was one of the crowd that brought the bodies to the surface.

Edward Pope, a miner at Silver Bow No. 2, was in bed until nearly 12 o'clock.

Peter Teague, a miner at No. 1, was working in a stope above the 200-foot level when the alarm was given. "We were called out about 9:30; went to No. 2 shaft and saw smoke coming out. About 11 o'clock Peter Munday and myself went down to the 400 level; found smoke there strong and thick; we had to go on top again; it was hot in the shaft. Later we went down about 20 feet below the 400."

David Bell, miner at No. 1, stated that he and five others went to the 500 of No. 2 about 5 o'clock yesterday morning. "We went to the head of the drift and then returned to the upraise and ascended the ladder where, three floors below the 400, we found the carman sitting dead on the ladder. At first we thought of taking the body to the 500, but we changed our minds and went up to the 400 and called the cage there. In going through the level to the 400 station we found the bodies of the others lying face downward."

Dr. Shoemaker being recalled, gave it as his opinion that if the men had climbed to the 300 instead of down to the 400 their lives might have been saved, as they could have then gone through the crosscut to shaft No. 1, thus drifting with the smoke.

This finished the testimony, and the jury, after being out a few minutes, returned the following verdict:

"We, the jurors, do say that the deceased parties came to their death from asphyxiation caused by smoke emanating from shaft No. 2 at the Silver Bow mine. That the fire was started in some manner unknown to the jury, and that from the evidence adduced, the Butte & Boston company, owners of said Silver Bow mine, are free from blame for the death of the employes named, and are entirely exonerated."

THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER.

It Will Require Three Days More to Reach the Other Four Bodies.

From Mondays Daily.

The leading questions among all classes yesterday was "have they got any more bodies out of the Silver Bow mine?"

As has already been stated, the remaining four bodies are at the 700-foot level, where they will have to stay until 150 feet of water is taken from the shaft, the 600-foot level and the 700-foot level. This work is progressing as fast as one 350-gallon tank can be lowered and raised to the surface, which requires two minutes and 13 seconds for each trip. During the first 25 hours run, which was from 3 o'clock Saturday until 4 o'clock yesterday, the water in the shaft was lowered about 40 feet, which is a little more than a foot and a half per hour.

The east compartment of the shaft is being used by the workmen engaged in repairing the pump at the 500 and retimbering the station. Huge timbers for the latter purpose were being taken down yesterday afternoon. From what could be learned yesterday the pump will be ready for business some time to-day. After it is started the tank and pump combined will lower the water reasonably fast, but owing to the large quantity in the 600 and 700-foot levels at least three days will be required to free the mine from it. This will make it about Thursday before the bodies are reached.

Like that taken from the workings of the Anaconda after the great fire there, the water coming from the shaft of the Silver Bow is strongly impregnated with copper and is eating the large tank. The tank will last several days yet, however, as the copper in the water is not quite so strong as it was in the water of the Anaconda, which stood in the workings about six months.

LAI D AT REST.

Burial of Three of the Victims of the Mine Disaster.

From Tuesdays Daily.

Yesterday afternoon at about the same hour there moved through the streets of Butte three solemn processions, each es-

corting the remains of men who had been suddenly and tragically deprived of life, they being victims of the awful disaster at the Silver Bow mine.

In each case the bodies had been carefully prepared for burial and were surrounded by sorrowing friends. The funeral of Richard Andrews took place from the residence of his brother, Thomas Andrews, No. 212 East Quartz street, and religious services were conducted at the house in an impressive manner by Rev. Mr. Little of Walkerville.

□Edward Pascoe was buried from the residence of John Toy, 605 East Park, at which Rev. Mr. Holmes of the Mountain View church officiated. At both of the above, Harris & Willoughby were the undertakers.

Evan Pugh, a third of the unfortunates, had a large attendance at the funeral. Deceased was a native of Wales and was a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to a lodge in Salt Lake. The Masons of Butte had charge of the funeral. Rev. E. B. Howell and Rev. J. H. Roberts were present and conducted appropriate services, the latter in the Welsh language. E. H. Sherman had charge of this funeral.

At all three of the corteges the Silver Bow band attended at the request of the Butte & Boston company, which company also defrayed the funeral expenses.

The Butte Weekly Miner

Butte, Montana

Thursday, April 27, 1893