

EXPLOSION IN A MINE

**Thirty-Five Men Burned, Some
of Them Fatally.**

MANY ARE INTERNALLY INJURED

**Over One Hundred at Work at the Time
and but Few Escaped Unhurt—Two Different
Theories Advanced For the Cause
of the Horror—The List of the Dead and
Wounded.**

HUNTINGTON, Ark., March 6.—Mine 44 of the Kansas and Texas Coal company of this place exploded, burning 35 men, all of them seriously and some of them fatally. One man, Bud Hanley, was killed outright. The injured are:

Joe Hubbard (a negro), badly burned, will probably die; William Hanley (a negro), badly burned, will probably die; F. Fricker, burned on arms, head and face; T. Stuesner, badly burned, may not recover; Andrew Fox, badly burned; Ennis Cable (a negro), probably fatally burned; Marshall Hatch, burned severely on head and face; W. H. Hile, track layer, severely burned; John Harris (a negro), hands, face and head burned; John Peterson (a negro), badly burned, thought to be injured internally; Doc Huffaker (a negro), burned on head, shoulders and arms; J. Ellis (a negro), hands and head burned; William Morris, badly burned on face, head and arms; William S. Carlett, severely burned and cut on head, in a serious condition; William Maxwell, very badly burned; William Gartschire, burned on face, neck and head.

1897 Kansas and Texas Coal explosion
NEWS3

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Location of the Mine.

Mine 44 is situated about a quarter of a mile north of the main part of the town. It was a shaft sunk six years ago, but abandoned for about two years. Last summer a slope was driven to the old working and it again commenced to produce coal.

Over 100 men, half of them negroes, were employed in the mine.

About 4:30 o'clock a muffled roar startled the people and they turned their heads toward the mine. A column of smoke and debris shot up high from the airshaft at the mine. Over the open ground and network of the railroad tracks rushed men and women. Many of the latter had husbands and other members of their families in the mine. In a few minutes after the explosion the men commenced to appear.

A Sickening Spectacle.

Some were not burned at all, while others appeared with the skin on their faces and hands hanging in ribbons. One by one the injured were brought out and taken to their homes. How many of them are burned internally the doctors cannot say, as their efforts are employed solely in dressing the wounds.

Different theories are advanced for the cause of the explosion. Superintendent Vail says he believes that a keg of powder was exploded by carelessness, but the general opinion among the miners appears to be that it was caused by windy shot firing the gas and powder smoke. They say that the mine was very dry and dusty and that the furnace was not sufficiently strong to create sufficient draft to carry the dust out of the rooms and entries. There is very little gas in the mines here, and none is of the opinion that it had any part in the blow up.

State Mine Inspector McMullin has been notified and will investigate.