

ELEVEN DEAD!

**Twenty Miners in the Ferguson
Mine When Explosion
Took Place**

ON SATURDAY NIGHT, LAST

**But One of the Bodies So Far Recov-
ered Shows Marks of Dis-
figuration.**

DEATH WAS DUE TO SUFFOCATION

**The Story of the Horror as Related by
Pit Boss McGuirk, One of the Sur-
vivors—Flames Broke Through
From "Hill Farm" Mine.**

INQUEST TO BE HELD LATER ON

CONNELLSVILLE, November 22.—This has been a sad day in the little mining settlement of Ferguson, nestled in the hills a mile and a half above Dunbar. When the books of the company were consulted to-day to determine the identity of the dead and injured in last night's explosion in the Ferguson mine, it was found that there were twenty-one men in the mine at the time of the explosion. Ten bodies were taken from the mine last night; of the ten injured one died to-day and one man is missing, whose body is supposed to be still in the mine.

All day long the trolley cars have been crowded with curious people going to and from the scene of the disaster. Hundreds have stood for hours around the little blacksmith shop which was turned into a morgue last night where the ten bodies of the unfortunate miners were prepared for burial this morning. Coroner Arthur F. Hagan, of Uniontown, went to Ferguson early this morning and viewed the bodies as they lay in the blacksmith shop and summoned a jury of inquest. Coroner Hagan says he will not hold the inquest until some of the injured men at the hospital recover. Strange to say, only one of the bodies at the morgue was disfigured. All the other bodies were in good condition and scarcely a scratch could be found upon them, indicating that death was due to suffocation.

The officials declare that no fire exists in the mine, but this is not established, as it is believed the fire is burning further back than where the explosion actually occurred. Pit Boss McGuirk is the only one who can give any definite details of the disaster and the scenes that followed it. He was seen at his little home to-day and said:

"I think the explosion was caused by the flames from the old Hill farm breaking through the wall that had been erected when the Ferguson slope was opened. Ferguson mine is practically the old "Hill Farm" mine.

"When the explosion occurred I was standing in a room with ten or twelve miners about me. The place was rent with a terrific noise and men were thrown in all directions. I must have been knocked unconscious for a few minutes. When I regained consciousness I felt the blood streaming from a cut in my head, but filled with the fear of death I jumped to my feet and called to the men to follow. None of them moved and going to several of them I shook them roughly. Then I lost consciousness again.

"In a few minutes I was back on my feet. The room was filled with smoke, broken timbers and flames. I made for the mouth of the mine and fought my way through the smoke and flames, but fell exhausted thirty yards from the pit mouth and was picked up and assisted from the mine by the rescuing party."

The doctors fear that McGuirk cannot get well. The flesh is burned from his face and in many places the bone is exposed.

The dead:

JAMES MCGUIRK, 22 years old, son of Pit Boss John McGuirk.

WHEATLEY FOSTER, 21 years old.

MIKE SAMANDRE, married, wife and family in the old country.

JAMES OCKLAN, 27 years old.

PETER SENORA, 38 years, wife and three children.

JOHN SEDRAVIS, 39 years old, wife and family in old country.

JOHN VERA, 42 years old, wife and family in the old country.

MIKE SEKORA, 23 years old.

ANDY KOOTSVAR, 38 years old, wife and three children.

MIKE HAVERSJACK, 34 years old, wife and family in the old country.

HJACK BALASLAF, died at the Cottage State hospital this afternoon; is 28 years old.

Missing:

MIKE BENNA, 22 years old, thought to have been covered by a fall of slate.

The injured:

JOHN MCGUIRK, 39 years old, wife and five children, so badly burned cannot recover.

WILLIAM FOSTER, 45 years old, seriously burned about the face and body; cannot recover.

JOHN FOSTER, 19 years old, seriously burned about the body and face; will probably not recover.

ADAM LINKS, cannot recover.

JOSEPH DOVIAC, seriously burned about the body and face; condition serious.

JOHN PATRICH, badly burned; will recover.

JOHN MARCHICH, driver; burned about body and face.

JOHN KORCHUSK, seriously burned.