COAL FATAL

A Report of a Fire at the No. 1 Coal Mine
Decatur, Illinois
January 16, 1905 - 6 Killed

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(From the State Coal Report 1954, Illinois Department
of Mines and Minerals)

January 16, 1905, shortly after noon, a fire broke out in No. 1 mine, Decatur, Macon County, which resulted in the death of six men. The fire was discovered in the mule stable and undoubtedly was caused by sparks from a pipe or a partially consumed cigarette. At the time the fire was discovered, about 60 men were in the mine, but by the prompt action of the mine manager in sending runners to give warning, all escaped but the six unfortunate referred to above. The alarm was immediately sent to the city fire department, which responded promptly, but, owing to the location of the fire so far underground, considerable time was consumed in preparing to reach it. By hard work, the fire was brought under control, several men were rescued and all the bodies recovered.

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