

AWFUL CALAMITY.

STONE CITY MINE NO. 2 VISITED BY GREAT CALAMITY.

Fourteen Out of Twenty Men Badly Burned and Five Deaths Occur From Explosion.

On last Thursday twenty men went into the bottom of the Fidelity coal mine No. 2 at Stone City at 7 o'clock, laughing and joking on their way to work. Thirty minutes later fourteen of them were suffering and five had received their death wounds from burn and sorrow was the share of fourteen homes.

Those fatally burned, and who died immediately afterward were, Ollie Pettorff, John Day, I. W. Edwards, Dion Raiz and Matt Tucca, all of Stone City, and the others seriously burned were Frank Brenner and H. Dolman.

Those not so seriously burned were Rufus Miller, Jules Senason, Emile Bitose, Charles Crousel, Aug Crousel, Antoen Peas, Bert Tucca and the motor man, A. Hilms.

The accident was the most serious that has ever occurred in Cherokee county.

The pit cars in this mine are run by electricity and the first opinion expressed by the survivors was that the powder jacks carried by the miners for shooting the coal down had been exploded by sparks from the wires. The men had just arranged themselves in the small cars, each carrying his powder jack containing 12½ pounds of powder each. These jacks are tin cans with a screw cap on them, and eight of the twelve exploded, being about 160 pounds.

The men were in two of the pit cars, and the accident occurred just as they were starting from the bottom. Some of the men were sitting on their powder jacks and others had them at their sides.

Ollie Portorff was one of the most seriously burned and he died at 11:30 that day.