

VICTIM OF EXPLOSION.

**PITTSBURG MINER WAS KILLED IN
DISASTER AT WITTEVILLE.**

**James Thomas who Recently Left
Pittsburg was Among Victims of
Mine Explosion—Eagles Have
Been Notified.**

It was ascertained today that James L. Thomas, a Pittsburg man, was among the victims in the mine explosion at Witteville, L. Ty., near Poteau, L. T., yesterday in which fourteen miners lost their lives. Thomas left here only a short time ago and the news of his death was the first that had been heard of him since his departure.

The news came in a telegram from Patrick Cairns, of the Eagle Lodge, at Fort Smith, Ark., to J. A. Cameron, of the local lodge, in which it stated that Thomas had been killed and asking what disposition should be made of the body. The deceased had a brother and an effort was being made today to locate him. The brother is believed to be working in a mine at West Mineral.

Thomas was well known in the mining camps around Jewel Thomas. He was a bachelor and was known as a hard-working miner. He belonged to the local union of the United Mine Workers of America and was also a member of Sunflower Aerie No. 123, Fraternal Order of Eagles.

It is probable that the body will be brought here for burial.

The Headlight last evening printed a dispatch from Poteau giving a list of the names of the victims, and Mr. Thomas' name appeared in that list, but it was not known until the telegram was received by the Eagles, that it was the same man that lived here.

The explosion occurred in a slope of Witteville mine No. 6 in entry No. 4, where there were 16 men working, including two mule drivers named Arch Dunlap and Amos Clay, whose escape was rather miraculous.

When the explosion occurred they were near the entrance and were thrown nearer it enabling them to escape through the hole thus made. The mules were killed.

The explosion is supposed to have been caused by the accidental discharge of a shot which was left over from the firing of the night before.

There is no fire about the mine which gives rise to the theory that the death of the men was caused by fire damp that filled the entry following the explosion of the shot.

The bodies of three of the men killed have been recovered, but the mine is still so full of gas that it is impossible to enter for the recovery of the other bodies.