

THE ZANESVILLE SIGNAL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1906

FIVE FELL TO SUDDEN DEATH

A Cable Broke and San Toy Miners Take An Awful Plunge

A disastrous accident occurred Saturday afternoon at the New England Coal Company's mine at San Toy, in Perry County, in which five miners lost their lives and one was seriously injured.

THE DEAD

Steve Mattick, 17, Hungarian
Fred Lozette, 30, Frenchman
Casper Weaver, 30, American
Andy Kittea, 32, Hungarian
Arta Williams, colored

At the close of work Saturday afternoon eight miners stepped into the elevator and were being brought to the surface when a cable broke titling the car in which they were riding to one side. The five men above named were thrown out of the car to the bottom of the shaft 150 feet below. All but Arta Williams were killed instantly. Williams lived three hours.

John Wright, one of the three men who escaped, sustained a broken leg and other injuries. He saved himself by grasping the side of the car when it tilted and hanging on while the car was being raised. His injuries are not fatal.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1906

IMPERFECT CAGES AT SAN TOY MINE

State Mine Inspector Finds Fault With Management At The San Toy Mine

Relative to the accident last Saturday at the San Toy mine, Perry County, in which five men lost their lives, George Harrison, state mine inspector, after a personal inspection, has made the following statement:

"The circumstances surrounding the accident were not as first reported. The hoisting cage did not turn over or dump in the shaft as first reported. The hoisting cage at San Toy, like many others are large heavy iron structures, and are dumped automatically at the top of the shaft, running the coal out of the mine car without taking the car off the cage, commonly called "self-dumping cages."

"The sides are not squared by iron bars as similar to the old fashioned solid cages; this would interface with the automatic dumping, but a light wooden structure called a crib or cage in which ponies, horses, and employees go down and up is placed on the hoisting cage and is so much smaller than the floor of the hoisting cage that there is about a foot of clear space at both sides and ends."

"It has two drop endgates so as to permit the employees to pass through. These endgates swing on an iron bar at the bottom are fastened to the top with long iron pins."

"The testimony of the miners show that in coming up those next to the endgate would sometimes take the pins out and hold the gate in their hands ready to drop as soon as the cage reached the surface landing, especially if they were in a hurry to get home. Whether this was done or not will always remain a mystery, but by some means the gate was dropped in the shaft and caught the shaft timbers, titling the wooden cage and breaking off one end of it, throwing the men against the side of the shaft, and with the instinct of a drowning man, they are supposed to have clutched or grabbed each other and in consequence six men were precipitated to the bottom, - four instantly killed and one dying shortly after and one other sustaining a broken limb and a fracture of the other limb."

Three man who clung to the cage were saved.