

COAL FATALITY
ASHFORD, WASHINGTON
NORTHWESTERN IRON AND STEEL CO
JANUARY 29, 1909

J. Morrel, age 30, single, occupation miner; Wm. Dinkler, age 43, occupation foreman. Morrel and Carl Wickstand were driving a rock tunnel with Michael Murphy mucking for them. The two miners had drilled four holes in face of tunnel and loaded ready to fire with electric battery. The three men came back to the battery about 280 feet from the face. As Morrel fired the shots an explosion occurred. Murphy and Wickstand ran to safety, but as Morrel still remained, Dinkler, with others, went in to rescue him. Dinkler was overcome by after-damp and died before he could be carried to safety. From testimony given before the coroner's jury and examination made later, the explosion was caused by the shots igniting a gas feeder. Following is a copy of the coroner's jury:

INQUEST ON THE BODIES OF JOHN MORREL & WM. DINKLER

We, the jury, duly summoned ... duly elected and qualified coroner . . . to hear the testimony and evidence offered . . Morrel and Wm. Dinkler, which took . . . Pierce county, Washington . . . having viewed the bodies and having . . . witnesses at said inquest, do hereby give . . . to-wit:

We think that Wm. Dinkler came to his death from black damp in going to the rescue of John Morrel, and that John Morrel came to his death from a gas explosion. We cannot find any negligence on the part of any one.

(Signed) W. Ashford, Foreman;
Samuel Estes,
E. H. Frank,
Willis Estes,
F. C. Kingsley,
Rice Anderson.