

MINE DISASTER

LIVES LOST IN FIRE AT LEHIGH,
OKLAHOMA

DEAD EXCEEDS TWENTY

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ARE
RESCUED

Fire Breaks Out, Suffocating Workmen
In Shafts—Work of Rescue Is
Being Pushed—Other
News of State

Lehigh, Okla.—A death list of probably twenty-five miners, mostly Italians and Mexicans, is the result of a disastrous fire which broke out shortly after noon here Thursday in mine No. 5 of the Western Coal and Mining company, the property of Frank Gould. The flames swept through the mine, starting at a point 300 feet below the surface of the earth and spreading until the many shafts were veritable blazing infernos and the lives of those unable to escape were snuffed out almost like candles.

At midnight Thursday the bodies of eight victims had been removed from near the main entrance to the mine, and one live negro was discovered. He had miraculously escaped death in a byshaft into which apparently the flames did not reach. It is believed by officials of the company that from fifteen to twenty other miners were entombed within the earth with, it is believed, no chance of escape. In fact, it is thought that already all of them have been suffocated.

The eight victims whose bodies already have been recovered were John Ricpetti, Fleming Watts, John Vianco, Paul Gubino, Simon Lovers, Dummy, a Slav miner, and two Mexicans whose names could not be learned. A list of the missing could not be obtained.

When the fire broke out, nearly 200 miners were at work in the shafts, and word of the disaster immediately was spread through the mine. Most of the men escaped through an old abandoned shaft, the outlet to which was more than two miles from the entrance to the main shaft. The fire spread all over the main shafts. Thirty cars of coal were scattered through these to feed the flames, which still are raging.

The work of rescue is being pushed by the rescue party of the United States government rescue station at McAlester. They believe that many more bodies will be removed from the mine soon.