

NINE MEN KILLED

When Ore Car Plunges Down Coronado Incline at Metcalf and Jumps Track

When a coupling pin on an ore car broke Wednesday afternoon, August 13th, shortly after 4 o'clock on the Coronado incline, which has a 28 per cent grade for a distance of 3300 feet, the car rushed down hill at terrific speed, jumped the tracks after traveling 500 feet, and buried nine men to their death.

The dead:

William A. Schaffer, mining engineer, New York City.
E. M. Jones, machinist, Clifton.
G. C. Cardwell, electrician, Metcalf.

John McAnn, helper, Metcalf.
C. E. Johnson, machinist, Morenci.
Julian Rice, helper, Metcalf.
Mareco, Italian baker, Morenci.
Capredi, Italian baker, Morenci.
Pedro Oropesa, helper, Metcalf.

The injured:

Stuart Scott, Coronado Mine.
C. W. McLean, Metcalf.
A. W. Liddell, Auditor, Clifton.
J. B. Downey, Chief Mechanical Electrical Engineer.
Mark Rohmetz, Electrician, Morenci.

Two unknown Mexican laborers, Mexican boys twelve years old.

The men had just come out of the mine on the ore car, which had been the steepest and longest running grade in the world, when the pin holding the cable to the car snapped. The safety chains broke and the car started on its death-dealing rush.

E. Andrew Liddell, auditor of an accounting company; C. W. McLean, miner; Superintendent Scott of the Coronado mine; S. B. Downey, chief electrician, and a man named Blum, who escaped death by jumping from the car before it had attained any great speed.

They stood helplessly at the brink of the ledge overlooking the incline and watched their companions speed to their doom. They saw the car reach a velocity with a loop and before it left the track it was running with the speed of the wind. All they could distinguish just before the end was a blurry streak shooting down the mountain side.

Like a meteor launched through space the car left the rails then tumbled down the jagged mountain side. The eight men were literally torn to pieces before the car finally lodged against trees near the foot of the mountain.

There is a theory that the men were unconscious before the car left the tracks—that the convergence has attained such a frightful speed that they were choked senseless.

"Faulty Drawhead," Says Jury

A broken drawhead on one of the two ore cars which yesterday tumbled thirteen men down an incline near Metcalf, Arizona, was blamed for the loss of nine lives by a coroner's jury that convened late today. The metal of the drawhead showed a flaw where it had parted.

1913 Coronado mine disaster



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