

Fatal Mine Accident

Five Men Killed by Fall of Cage

Five men who went to their work Wednesday morning in their usual health and good spirits and who had exchanged the usual greeting and jokes with their fellow workmen at the shaft, stepped upon the cage at 7:10 and in a few seconds were hurled to the bottom by the breaking of the cage cable.

News of the accident spread through the town and caused such a feeling of sorrow and depression as had never before been witnessed since the town became the thriving center of the coal mining industry. These men all lived in Mulberry and all have families or relatives to mourn for them.

The accident occurred at the Spencer-Newland Mine No. 7 a mile south of town. It was the fourth trip of the cages down. Joseph James the engineer had let down the mules and several men before the fatal trip. It was the second trip down of the west cage when Mr. James was apprised by the action of his engine that the cage had dropped. He reversed his engine at once and did all he could to avert the disaster and hoped that the safety catches had held the cage. But when he went out to see he was told that the cage had hit the bottom and the men were hurt. He immediately set himself to the task of getting the injured men out.

The victims of the disaster were; Arthur Conay, Fritz Ginther, Edison Buchanan, Tom Strahorn, John Montella and William Baird. Conay and Ginther died in a few moments after they were brought to the top. Strahorn, Buchanan and Montella died on their way to Mount Carmel hospital. William Baird was taken to the hospital and has a broken leg and is probably injured internally, but may recover.

Arthur Conay was well known to the miners in Crawford and Cherokee counties and was the first president of the U. M. W. of A in District No. 14. He was 71 years old.

Fritz Ginther was about 45 years old and a wife, mother and four sisters Miss Daisy, Mrs. Ed. Solomon and Mrs. John Gaslein, survive him.

Buchanan was married but had no children. He was about 38 years old and a member of the A. O. U. W. He had been unfortunate in respect to mine accidents, having several times been injured, and about two years ago received serious hurts by a rock fall.

Strahorn was unmarried. His body was brought back to the Honstead undertaking rooms from Fuller. He was the youngest of several brothers, and his sister and father live in Arcadia.

Montella was 50 years old and married. Several children are living. He was a member of the Eagles and of the A. O. U. W. His body was taken to Carpenter's undertaking rooms.

Baird, the one occupant of the cage who escaped death, was the youngest of the six. He is about 25 years of age and single. He lives with his brother in Mulberry. He was taken to the hospital in Honstead's ambulance. He was able to talk but little. He tried to protect himself as much as possible, he said, when the cage began to fall, by grasping the top with his hands. He thinks this action saved his life.

Four of the unfortunate men were members of the A. O. U. W. Lodge of this city. Arrangements have been made to have the funeral to-day under the directions of the A. O. U. W. and Eagle lodges.