

GAS EXPLOSION IN MINE KILLS FIVE WORKMEN

Five Others Are Injured in
Harmarville Shaft Be-
ing Reclaimed.

THREE BODIES RECOVERED

With a crash that was heard within a radius of several miles, gas accumulated in a mine that was being reclaimed at Harmarville by the Consumers' Mining Company, exploded at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, causing the death of five workmen, two of the bodies being buried in the wreckage at the bottom of the shaft, and injuring five others seriously.

So great was the force of the explosion that parts of human bodies were blown from the bottom of the shaft, 300 feet below the surface of the ground, into the open above the shaft mouth. Two hours after the explosion occurred an arm was found several hundred feet from the mouth of the shaft by a boy. One of the injured was working on the surface in the vicinity of the shaft and suffered a broken leg when he was thrown to the ground by the force of the blast.

THE DEAD:

James Washington, 40 years old, a Negro, of New Kensington.

Verner Ware, 30 years old, a Negro, of New Kensington.

James Giffin, 49 years old, a Negro, of New Kensington.

Robert Smith, 45 years old, white, of Harmarville, body still in shaft.

John Zane, 25 years old, of Etna, body still in mine.

THE INJURED:

Victor Pilenrist, 40 years old, of Harmarville, internal injuries and burns on the body.

Frederick Miller, 32 years old, of Harmarville, mine electrician, burns and bruises on the body; condition not serious.

Paul Roman, 25 years old, of South Burgetstown, internal injuries and body burns.

Polis Turner, 35 years old, of Harmarville, bruised and burned on the body.

Andy Erana, 30 years old, of Harmarville, employed by the Dravo Construction Company, of Pittsburgh, suffered a broken leg when he was knocked down while at work near the mouth of the shaft; taken to Citizens' Hospital, New Kensington.

All the injured except Erana were employed by the mining company and they were rushed to the Allegheny General Hospital. The bodies of the dead recovered were taken to an undertaking establishment in Verona. A crew from the Pittsburgh station of the United States bureau of mines was rushed to the scene and began work trying to recover the two bodies remaining in the mine.

MINE IDLE 18 YEARS.

According to R. B. Blackburn, superintendent of the mine, who was a short distance away when the explosion occurred, debris was thrown hundreds of feet into the air and the workings at the mouth of the pit collapsed at the same time. The mine, which has not been operated for more than 18 years, was recently taken over by the Consumers' Mining Company to help supply the local demand for coal. Preparations for full operation of the mine were being made.

First reports of the explosion reached nearby towns within a few minutes after the blast occurred and ambulances from Pittsburgh, Verona and New Kensington were rushed to the scene. Company officials could give no definite cause for the explosion other than that it had been caused by gas. A thorough investigation will be made as soon as the wreckage can be cleared away.