

FOUR KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT MINE IN THROOP

Dynamite, Fired in Unknown Manner, Hurled Tons of Rock on Miners

FOUR RECEIVE INJURIES

Three of Victims Had Started to Work Yesterday for First Time in Months

TUNNELING THROUGH ROCK

Disaster Occurred in Drift Located Off in Woods Beyond Marshwood Section

Four men lost their lives and four others were injured, one perhaps fatally, when a charge of dynamite, fired in some unknown manner hurled tons of rock upon them, in the Birds-eye slope of the Olyphant mine of the Hudson Coal company, on the mountainside beyond Throop yesterday afternoon at 3:20 o'clock.

Three of the men—two of the dead and one of the injured—had started to work yesterday afternoon for the first time in months. Their shift started at 3 o'clock, and twenty minutes later they were dead. One man who lost his life was a brother-in-law of one of the most seriously injured.

The dead are:

WILLIAM MURRAY, 23, of the rear of 1338 North Washington avenue, city.

JOHN CRANE, 59 118 East Grove street, Dunmore.

ANTHONY GUMUWKA, 46, Susquehanna street, Olyphant.

GEORGE BINGHAM, 45, 2453 Olyphant avenue, city.

Those Who Were Injured.

The injured, all of whom are at the Mid-Valley hospital, are:

JOHN McLAUGHLIN, 40, 1927 Jackson street, city; fractured ribs, possible internal injuries; condition serious.

ANDREW CUNNINGHAM, 53 1575 North Washington avenue; fractured jaw, bruises and cuts of body.

ANTHONY MORAN, 34, 915 Wyoming avenue, brother-in-law of Murray; contusions of shoulder; cuts and bruises of body.

ANTHONY FORD, 25, 435 Landis street; fractured left leg, bruises of face and arms.

Most Serious Accident in Years.

The disaster is the most serious mine accident in the valley in some years. Three of the victims were horribly mangled, the blast severing the heads of two of the men from their bodies, while a third had his two legs blown off. Crane, conscious for a few moments after he had been rescued, died within a short time after he reached the hospital.

None of the injured men, nor any of the company officials, were able to advance any explanation as to the manner in which the blast occurred. Murray, Bingham and Gumuwka were instantly killed, as the force of the charge sent pieces of rock flying at them with the velocity of machine-gun fire.

The eight men were members of a gang employed in driving a tunnel through the rock from the Clark to the China vein in what is known as the Birds-eye slope, where work is being done under the direction of John Kilkullen, mining contractor of Olyphant, employed by the Hudson company. The drift is located off in the woods beyond the Marshwood section.

Men on the day shift completed their work at 3 o'clock, and the next shift—working from 3 to 11 o'clock—started in. Included in the eight men were the three who were working their first day in the mine—Crane, Gumuwka and Cunningham.

Tells Story of Explosion.

Ford, picked up in his bed in the Mid-Valley hospital, last night told the story of the explosion, the only story, probably, that will ever be told of the manner in which it occurred. Ford, as "charge-man" of the shift, had just finished charging—filling with powder—the five holes which had been drilled for the purpose of blowing down the "cut" in the solid face of the rock.

Carrying the powder box with him, Ford started away from face face, the other men being directly in front of it. Bingham began to connect the wires by which the blast is fired. In exploding the charge, wires are connected with each of the holes that have been charged, and when all the men have reached a place of safety, the blast is fired.

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REPORT HALL DEATH CAR DISCOVERED

Detectives Claim to Have Located Auto Which Carried Slayers

NEW WITNESS IS FOUND

Another Widow Declares She Saw Figures and Heard Shots on Night of Killing

By The Associated Press.
NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Nov. 3.

This was another day of mystery in the Hall-Mills murder case. These things occurred:

1.—County Detective David, working under Special Deputy Attorney General Mott, professed that reporters could bank on action next week.

2.—Detectives claimed to have located the automobile in which the slayers are believed to have ridden to the scene of the murders on the Phillips farm.

Saw Fatal Scene.

3.—The witness heralded as having testimony to support the eye-witness story of the shooting told by Mrs. Jane Gibson, farmer and self-styled eye-witness to the double shooting, was identified as Mrs. A. C. Fralry, a widow living with her daughter in a farmhouse on Lovers Lane near the scene of the murder. It was understood that she had stated she had seen, from the upper stories of her home, figures moving in the field in which the slaying had occurred and had heard shots, but her home was barred today to reporters and she could not be interviewed. Simourney Smith, a grave digger and a boarder in Mrs. Fralry's home, already has been questioned by state troopers.

4.—Mr. Mott failed to show up in New Brunswick, although his assistants had summoned all the witnesses for interrogation, with the exception of Mrs. Edward Wheeler Hall, whose husband rector of St. John the Evangelist Church, was found slain with Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills, choir singer.

5.—Detective Mason, chief aide to Mr. Mott, later was seen to depart in the direction of Newark, after holding a hasty platform conference with Mrs. Gibson and another woman said to have been her mother. The women did not board the train.

Examined No Witnesses

6.—Mr. Mason, seen after his arrival in Newark, denied that he had taken any witnesses to Newark during the day for questioning by Mr. Mott. He said, he anticipated no important developments before Monday.

7.—The rumor still prevailed that grand jury action might be expected Monday and that two warrants already had been prepared. Miss Sally Peters, confidante of Mrs. Hall, told reporters Mrs. Hall was much pleased with the results of the long interview she had given reporters this week and that letters received from various parts of the country indicated a strong reaction in favor of the rector's widow.

Investigators announced that they were receiving scores of frank letters from persons offering to solve the mystery.

One offered an algebraic solution. Designating principals as A, B, C, D, etc., and the slayer as X, the writer forwarded six pages of equations which left the investigators still in doubt as to the identity of X.

Dream solutions are arriving by the dozen. One evangelist submitted the solution of a supposedly divine communication.

STATESBURY RESIGNS FROM THE COMMITTEE

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 3.—Edward T. Statesbury, local banker, resigned today as chairman of the finance committee of the Sesqui-Centennial Exhibition association. His resignation was accepted with regret. The financier said he would be glad to continue his identification with the proposed world's fair in other than an executive capacity.

Today the board of directors approved a program to ask the city for \$500,000 and \$2,000,000 each from the state and the federal government. The balance of the \$25,000,000 authorized for expenditure on the exposition will be raised by subscription and the sale of certificates of indebtedness.

4 KILLED IN EXPLOSION AT THROOP MINE

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by the pressing of the switch on a dry battery.

Bingham stepped to the face to make the connections. Ford said last night, and in a flash came the explosion. A huge piece of rock hurled in his direction caught Ford in the leg, but he started to crawl up the slope to reach a telephone to call for help. He had made his way for ten or twelve yards when he met another employe, who put in the call for aid.

Had Passed Fatal Spot.

Mr. Kilcullen himself was but a few hundred feet away at the time. He had passed by the spot where the men were working at 3:18 o'clock, and saw that they were preparing to fire the "cut"—the first operation in the first operation in the work of blowing the rock. The noise of the blast accordingly attracted no undue attention until Ford carried the appeal for aid.

The call was sent to the surface and immediately all available doctors and ambulances were rushed to the scene. Rescuers who began the work of taking the mangled bodies from the debris found limbs literally torn from them, the heads of two of the men blown off.

McLaughlin, Moran, Ford and Cunningham, with Crane, were rushed to the surface and placed in ambulance. Crane was able to talk for a short time after he had been taken out, but he was dead within a few moments after he had arrived at the hospital.

McLaughlin's Condition Critical

Dr. J. G. Van Vechten, for the company, assisted by several other physicians, treated the men at the hospital. McLaughlin is believed to have suffered internal injuries, and his condition as regarded as critical last night. Ford was the least seriously injured of the four.

Murray, whose wife is a sister of Moran, is survived by his widow, and one brother, in Ireland. Crane leaves a wife and three children, Mark, John and Aloisius; two brothers Martin, of this city, and Thomas, in Ireland; three sisters, Mrs. Lawrence Mullen,