

6 DIE IN BLOWUP AT MINE

Two Others Perhaps
Fatally Injured at
Burnett; Cause of Ex-
plosion Probed

The death list in the mine disaster which brought tragedy to the little town of Burnett, 26 miles southeast of Tacoma, Wednesday night grew from four to six men Thursday when the bodies of two men, reported as missing, were seen by rescue crews.

Besides the dead, two miners working with the crew of 46 on the third level of the Pacific Coast Coal Company's mine, where an explosion of unexplained origin occurred at 6 p. m., were injured, one perhaps fatally.

Thursday's death list includes:
CHARLES KIRBY, 28, World War veteran, Burnett, leaving a widow, four sons and one daughter.

B. H. WASHBURN, 49, 8720 8th avenue, north, Seattle, leaving widow, one son and two daughters.

ELMER CRIPPEN, 26, single, Burnett.

ELMER LANDIS, 31, single, fire boss in the section exploded, Box 49-A, R. F. D. No. 1, South Tacoma.

E. H. RIDLEY, 39, Burnett, leaving widow, two sons and one daughter.

E. J. RUSH, 26, Burnett, single, formerly of Edmonton, Alta.

The injured are Harry Humecke, 24, of Burnett, married, who is unconscious and in a critical condition from gas, burns and shock, in the Providence Hospital, Seattle, and R. Lazarus, 23, a widower and Burnett resident, who is not seriously hurt.

Hold Inquest Friday

An inquest to determine, if possible, the cause of the explosion and to fix blame, if any, for the death of the six miners, will be held at Burnett at 1 p. m. Friday, Coroner F. J. Stewart announced Thursday.

Federal, state and county officials were making every effort Thursday to determine the cause of the disastrous explosion which occurred in No. 4 south gangway of the Burnett mine where 46 men were at work. Crews were hard at work Thursday, clearing away debris and attempting to get to the bodies of Rush and Ridley, which have been seen by their comrades. All hope of their being alive was given up by mine officials Wednesday night, and when glimpses of bodies were seen early Thursday, their names were added to the death list.

Findings of the state officials now investigating the case will be given at the inquest.

Rescue crews of the Burnett mine have been reinforced by crews from the Bureau of Mines, and Pacific Coast Coal Company's mines at Black Diamond, Newcastle and Carbonado.

Ignition of gas in the chambers of the mine is believed to have caused the explosion, but N. D. Moore, general manager of the Pacific Coast Coal Company, said Thursday he is at a loss to explain how it occurred.

"The Burnett mine is a 'safety'

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