

MANY LIVES LOST IN MINE DISASTER

Wilburton, Jan. 13.—Nineteen miners died in the gas-filled pit of No. 21 mine of the Degnan-McConnell company in the explosion early Wednesday morning. Seventy-four men remain prisoners, with hope for their rescue at the vanishing point. All may be dead.

Eight men, all negroes, entombed when the blast ripped through the mine, were rescued from their living death late in the afternoon. Crews tearing at the piles of debris hurled down by the explosion heard their cries and dragged them to safety.

The men taken from the mine, who were in entrance No. 13 west, were Roy Gray, Julius Graham, A. T. Johnson, Henry Phillips, Tom Carter, C. S. Erby, E. B. Boof and A. Lockhart. After Graham had been taken from the shaft, he rushed back and saved his step-brother, Roy Gray.

Three bodies have been taken from the death trap, those of Robert Lucas, Bernard Dailey and Charley Julius. Sixteen other bodies have been found, but no effort will be made at this time to remove them to the surface.

Battling their way into the entries, deadly gas peril, rescue workers, nearly 100 in number, faced a new menace late in the afternoon, when flames burst through in the tenth "parting" of the mine.

Rocks, loosened from the ceilings of the passages by the explosion, continued to fall throughout the day, and made rescue work extremely hazardous.

25 Are White Miners.

Twenty-five of the imprisoned men are white miners, and 76 negroes.

Negroes who were rescued told of walking over bodies of dead miners as they progressed from a small pocket under the main shaft to the man-way from which they emerged.

A. B. Thomas, 36 years old, a mining engineer, for more than a year a member of the faculty of the State School of Mines here, was among those in the shaft at the time of the explosion. He had contracted with the company to survey three mines, and one of which he completed. This was the first day in the mine. He has a wife and two children living in Hartshorne. John Evans, white pit boss, and two of Thomas' assistants also are unaccounted for.