

RESCUE SECOND MINER FROM THE WILBURTON MINE

At Noon Today 15 Bodies
Had Been Removed
from the Shaft

(By the Associated Press)

WILBURTON, Okla., Jan. 14. — The second survivor from the lower levels of mine number 21, Degnan-McConnell mining company, was brought to the surface shortly after 10 o'clock this morning. He is Beryl Holland, a negro.

Physicians were at the mouth of the mine with first aid kits, and as Holland was taken from the iron bucket used as a makeshift lifting cage, he was laid on a cot, given artificial respiration and covered with heavy blankets.

Holland was so weak he could not utter a sound. He appeared to be in a state of shock. Physicians said his condition was not serious, and that he was suffering from cold, fright and nervous exhaustion. As word came to the surface that a second man was to be brought from the debris alive, a throng of more than 2,000 people surged against the ropes, but were held back by national guardsmen.

Holland was taken from the fourteenth east level, but was unable to tell whether any other miners were alive there. A fire, which broke out in that level today, was soon extinguished by helmet crews and the work of recovering bodies was going forward swiftly at 10:30 a. m.

At that time, 15 bodies had been lifted to the surface. The escape of eight negroes soon after the explosion from the thirteenth level and the rescue of Cecil McKinney from the mine this morning, brings the total number of survivors to ten. Ninety one men either are dead or remain to be accounted for.

With the escape of the two men this morning, from 23 to 28 hours after the blast, rescue crews became hopeful that they would find more of the men alive. They have redoubled their efforts to penetrate the works in the shortest time possible.

Rescued Miner Tells of Horror
(By the Associated Press)

WILBURTON, Okla., Jan. 14. — Cecil McKinney, white, one of the 93 miners entombed by the explosion in Degan-McConnell mine number 21, near here, early yesterday morning, was rescued alive by mine rescue workers near the mouth of the mine at 8 o'clock this morning.

McKinney is the first survivor and possibly the only one to come out of the lower levels of the mine.

McKinney said he had crawled in the mine passages over dead bodies for 23 hours.

He was in a state of nervous exhaustion when rescue workers brought him to the surface. His clothing was watersoaked, his face covered with soot, and he was hatless. He was immediately given a shower bath, a physician called from the throng about the mouth of the mine, said he was not hurt and would recover in a short time.

"I crawled and crawled after the explosion, into utter blackness," McKinney chattered between clenched teeth as he was almost carried to the shower room.

"There are fifteen dead bodies in entry 16 east, where I was working at the time the explosion occurred. I do not know where I crawled, and how long I crawled, but I just squeezed through and finally found a slope and came to the bend where you found me," he told rescuers.

A large crowd soon gathered about the room where McKinney was taken but national guardsmen held it back. When questioned by rescuers as to whether any other persons might be alive he said he did not know but he did not think any were.

Fire which has been raging in the fourteenth level was extinguished at 5:30 o'clock this morning, rescuers said, and the work of rescuing the bodies went forward rapidly. Between 50 to 75 men were on hand to aid rescue crews as they are needed.

Three more bodies have been

brought to the cage shaft and are ready to be drawn out. Six were brought out last night. Three others were uncovered and can be brought to the surface at any time. Other men are believed to be buried so deeply beneath debris that it will be two or three days before their bodies can be removed.

Regular work in the Wilburton valley was closed down today and between 350 and 400 miners were here to give any possible aid.

Hundreds of death messages were being sent to relatives and friends entombed miners for whom no hope is held. Most of these messages are being sent by negroes.

Twelve Bodies Removed This A. M.

(By the Associated Press)

WILBURTON, Jan. 14.—Fire which broke out again this morning in entry number 14, of the Degnan-McConnell mine number 21, halted the work of removing bodies after twelve had been taken out.

All rescue workers were again ordered from the workings and fire extinguishers were lowered to the volunteer fire fighters who again entered the mine.

While rescuers were lifting the bodies to the surface a shout went up from the air shaft about 100 yards from the main entrance of the mine and it was found that one man had emerged alive. He was Cecil McKinney, who had crawled for 23 hours on his hands and knees, finally groping his way almost to the exit of the air shaft where he was found.

He had crawled over the body of his father and recognized him, he said, when he walked from the mine apparently suffering little except nervous exhaustion.

The first body taken out today was that of B. A. Thomas, an engineer who had gone into the mine shortly before the blast to make a survey. He was not employed there regularly.

There followed five others, and as the bodies were hauled up each was identified by his fellow workers. It was a subdued, grim group of men who brought the bodies up and put them on trucks to be taken to the morgue. The supply of stretchers soon was exhausted and army cots were pressed into service to transport the bodies.

A record of the bodies recovered was kept in crude chalk marks on the timbers of the tibble, a mark for each body, checked off in groups of five.

Jim McConnell, owner of the mine, returned from Illinois, where he had gone to attend the funeral of a friend. He at once issued a statement denying the declaration last night of Ed Boyle, state mine inspector, that the catastrophe was the result of having inexperienced men in the mine, which is being operated on a non-union basis.

"Every gas man in the mine held a certificate," Mr. McConnell declared, "and the majority of the men who were at work had been there some time. It is not true to say that the mine was being worked with men who did not know their business."

McKinney's escape reduced the number believed to be dead to 92.

It became known today that the company carried its own insurance on the miners who were killed. The state industrial commission has adopted the policy of allowing a flat compensation of \$9,000 for loss of life in industrial accidents, and at this rate the deaths of 92 men would cost the company \$828,000.

Four of the six men taken out today in addition to Thomas, before the renewal of the fire were identified as:

Bob Phillips, 23, negro.

Barney Dailey, 45, white.

Alec Havenock, 38, white.

James Chapman, 45, negro.

The identity of the remaining body had not been learned at the morgue.

Forty-five coffins arrived today by truck from Fort Smith, Arkansas. Three undertakers worked at top speed to prepare the bodies for burial, with the first funerals due late today. Each victim will be buried separately, no effort being made to conduct a general funeral service.