

DEATH DUE TO GAS IS JURY'S VERDICT

Inquest Over Victims of Badger State Mine Fire. Companion Testifies.

At an inquest held yesterday afternoon over the victims of the Badger State mine fire last Thursday, James White, William Hastie and Edward Barnes, the coroner's jury brought in a verdict that the three met death of asphyxiation. James Leary of 805 North Main street who was with all three when they were overcome by gas was the principal witness.

Leary said that he was with White, Hastie and Barnes on the 3,000-foot level of the Bell-Diamond mine, which adjoins the Badger, when one by one they fell in their tracks while fighting their way through a drift back to a station and fresh air, 2,000 feet away. He said that he had been sent from the Anaconda mine to aid in construction of brattice work to prevent smoke and gas getting into the Bell-Diamond from the Badger.

On the 3,000-foot level and about 2,300 feet from the station he met Fred McFadden, day shift boss, and Hastie. There was no gas in the drift at the time. Later White, Hastie, Barnes and Leary, after McFadden had gone to the surface, walked several hundred feet into the drift to test the gas, but smelled none. Tools were obtained and they walked about 2,000 feet in the drift. White then went ahead and came back and reported that the gas was thick. He was staggering and in reply to a question said: "I'll say the gas is strong in there" and fell over. They tried to carry him out, but in a short distance Hastie toppled over, the witness said. Barnes and Leary then tried to carry Hastie, but Barnes gave out, Leary said.

Leary stated that he then let loose of Hastie and staggered toward a crosscut, where he became unconscious. He was later found by helmet men who came to the rescue. The finding of the three victims was told by Thomas White who said they were carried to the station and every method used to revive them. Others testifying were Fred McFadden, Charles Raleigh, Harold Sappington and Dr. J. B. Frisbie.

1928 Badger-State Mine Asphyxiation
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