

Gas Explosion in Mine Takes Toll of Thirteen At Blain City Yesterday

SUPERSTITION

COALPORT, Pa., Aug. 16.—(INS)—Another time-honored mining superstition was recalled here today as two brothers and a father and son lie dead, victims of the Irvona mine explosion.

"Father and son—brother and brother—work together—bad luck." Despite the fact this superstition has faded from the minds of the present day mining generation, it was vividly recalled with the deaths of Tony and Eli Abaranavich, father and son, and James and Ray Hunt, brothers.

Cross-eyed miners, labor on Saturday afternoon, sudden gusts of rain as the miners enter the pits—these are some of the other superstitions recalled here.

Hoover Starts East To Wage Campaign For The Silent Vote Of Country

By WILLIAM K. HUTCHINSON
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Aug. 16.—Convinced that he can be elected to the presidency only by winning the Independents to his cause, Herbert Hoover will start east tonight to wage a campaign for the so-called "silent vote" of the country.

The Republican nominee will strive to capture the support of women's organizations, the organized forces of social reform and the business element, which frequently ignores elections. He will seek to arouse the interest of that large class of Americans, who take their politics lightly and who go to the ballot box but seldom. If he can get them to the polls and persuade them to vote Republican, Hoover feels assured of the election.

The Republican candidate indicated the strategy of his campaign in his acceptance speech, when he devoted large portions of his address to the subjects of social reform and child welfare. He made a special plea, in fact, to the women of the country, urging them to take an interest in politics generally and in the presidential election especially. After declaring the problems of America were "moral and spiritual" to a "much greater degree" than economic, Hoover added: "The participation of women in politics means a keener realization of the importance of these questions. It means higher political standards."

Hoover has discounted all reports of his followers that he will win "in a walk." He rather has heeded the advice of those lieutenants who tell him he must wage a hard battle to win the election. Consequently, he has determined to take the campaign seriously and to use all the executive

152 Others Had Narrow Escape From Death Three Miles From Mine Mouth

COALPORT, Pa., Aug. 16.—(INS)—With 13 miners killed in a gas explosion at the number 3 mine of the Irvona Coal and Coke company at Blain City, near here late yesterday, Federal and State Mine bureau officials today examined the blast torn workings where 152 other men narrowly escaped with their lives.

After a checkup today, company officials said that 165 men had gone down with the day shift. Of this number, most of the men were well on their way out before the blast let go.

George McGee, of Pittsburgh, representing the Federal Mines bureau and Ira H. Thomas, deputy state inspector of Mines, were at the scene of the blast today.

Of the fourteen men who were at work nearly three miles from the mine mouth when the blast let go, only one, Lareno Coccia, 37, escaped the full force of the explosion and came out alive.

The fact that the day shift had started out of the workings shortly before the blast probably averted a greater death toll. Most of the men were well started toward the mouth of the mine when they heard the explosion.

Several of them said that they thought the dull, re-echoing detonation was the explosion of a generator. A short time later, however, the telltale sweeping wave of heat followed, and they fled for their lives.

The bodies of the thirteen men were recovered several hours later. All apparently had been struck by the full force of the blast, many being stripped of clothing.

The explosion took the lives of two brothers, James and Ray Hunt, of Irvona, and those of a father and son, Tony and Ed Abaranavich, of Coalport.

As nearly as could be determined early today, the fourteen men were just finishing work preparatory to the long trip back to daylight when the blast let go. cursory examination of the mine failed to determine the cause for the blast, but condition of the bodies indicated that none lived long after the explosion.

The first of the rescue crews to reach the men reported that a spark of life remained in one of them, but this was short-lived.

By a queer twist of fate, had the men left their workings only at exactly the time they were due to start for the mine mouth, there is a possibility they would have escaped death. Coccia, the only one of the group at the scene of the blast, was the first to quit work, and he had started well on his way down the entryway when the blast let go.

LIST OF DEAD

COALPORT, Pa., Aug. 16.—(INS)—The list of dead in the Irvona mine explosion:

Pat Collins, Coalport.
Will Small, Coalport.
Tony Abaranavich, Coalport.
Edward Abaranavich, Coalport.
James Hunt, Irvona.
Ray Hunt, Irvona.
Herman Britton, Osceola Hills.
Harley Richards, Madera.
Charles Kubisina, Madera.
D. Vorade, Madera.
Emory Shanier, Madera.
Joe Fulare, Madera.
W. H. Hayes, Coalport.

Smith Confers With Leaders From South; Will Issue Statement

By RAYMOND L. BORST
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ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 16.—Cheered by news brought to him by Former Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, of Raleigh, N. C., that the South would remain Democratic, Governor Al Smith today was to obtain additional information of the political situation south of the Mason-Dixie line from Senator Walter F. George, of Georgia.

Senator George will be the third Democratic leader from the South with whom the Governor has conferred at the executive mansion in as many days. The first was Senator Carter Glass, of Virginia, author of the dry plank in the Democratic platform. He was followed by Daniels, another bone dry advocate.

It was understood that prohibition was the chief topic of conversation between Governor Smith and the southern dry leaders.

Senator Thomas J. Walsh, of Montana, is due here tomorrow to discuss the western political situation with the Governor.

Before he went into conference with the Governor, Daniels said he did not feel that Smith's stand for modification of the Volstead act, as expressed in the telegram he sent to the Democratic National convention, was a repudiation of the platform.

"At the close of the National convention I said I did not think it necessary for Governor Smith to send such a telegram," said Daniels.

"That was my judgment then and I haven't seen any reason to change it. I do not construe the Governor's action as a repudiation of the platform, but we will let it go at that."

Daniels said the people of the South were awaiting with keen interest the address Governor Smith will deliver next Wednesday night in formally accepting the presidential nomination.

"A good many people think that much depends upon what Governor