

End of Shift Averts Greater Death Toll In Mine Disaster

(International News Service)

COALPORT, Pa., Aug. 16.—Formal investigation of the explosion at the number 3 mine of the Irvona Coal and Coke Company at Blain City yesterday in which 13 men lost their lives, will begin tomorrow, with attaches of the state bureau of mines in charge. It was announced here this afternoon.

COALPORT, Pa., Aug. 16.—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.

George McCae, of Pittsburgh, representing the federal mines bureau and Ira H. Thomas, deputy state inspector of mines, were at the scene of the blast today.

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.

LIST OF DEAD IN MINE DISASTER

(By International News Service)

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

Pat Collins, Coalport
Will Smail, Coalport
Tony Abaranavich, Coalport
Edward Abaranavich, Coalport
James Hunt, Irvona
Ray Hunt, Irvona
Herman Britton, Osceola Mills
Harley Richards, Madera
Charles Kubisina, Madera
D. Vorade, Madera
Emory Shanfer, Madera
Joe Fulare, Madera
W. H. Mayes, Coalport

Of the fourteen men who were at work nearly three miles from the mine mouth when the blast let go, only one, Mareno 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 tell-tale sweeping wave of heat followed, and they fled for their lives.

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

While no official statement was made as to the cause of the blast, bureau of mines men were of the opinion that a gas and dust explosion was responsible.

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.

BEGIN WORK ON THE GREEVES ST. PART OF REPAVING PROJECT

Work was started on the Greeves street part of the Biddle-Edgar-Greeves repaving and widening project this morning when bricks were removed from the south portion of the street from Edgar to Fraley. A three-lane space was left untouched between Edgar and Chase streets to permit traffic on the principal highway routes through here.

Traffic between Fraley and Chase streets on Greeves has been halted and bricks on the entire block of the street will be removed.

Part of the paving machinery has arrived here and it is thought that the paving will be started within the