

## REVISED LIST PLACES DEATHS IN MINE AT 21

MEN MET THEIR DEATHS IN  
GAS EXPLOSION IN PEABODY  
MINE NO. 18

HAS BEEN KNOWN AS SUBJECT  
TO GAS DANGER SINCE OPENED

Today Two Investigations Into Ex-  
plosion are Begun, One by State,  
Other by Coroner

West Frankfort, Ill., Jan. 10.—(AP)—Gas, that invisible menace of the coal miner, has added 21 lives to its lengthening list.

The 21 were killed yesterday by a gas explosion in a passage of the Peabody industrial mine No. 18.

Six hundred feet underground, most of the miners were killed outright. The others died from the after-damp that followed the explosion.

State and county investigations today sought to fix the explosion's cause. A. D. Lewis, state director of mines, who made a personal inspection, was conducting the state's investigation, while Coroner Joe Hill, of Franklin county, impelled a jury to investigate the disaster for the county.

### No Warning Given

Coughing without warning shortly after 600 miners had taken their places at 7:30 a. m. the explosion killed all the men working in four adjoining rooms.

Three mine rescue crews fought their way through gas and crumbled walls of coal and timber to bring the bodies to the shaft where they were lifted to the surface last night.

Two of the dead men were found within a few feet of fresh air and safety. Another had made his way nearly to a trap door where he could have escaped.

### Unable to Save Brother

A brave effort by Robert McPhail to save his brother David was related. David, upon hearing the blast, rushed into the passage and after three dashes into the deadly gas found his brother but was forced by the gas to drop him within 15 feet of fresh air.

Eventually realizing his doom, Ray Farrell chalked the number of his mine room on the soles of his feet where it was found when his body was discovered. The other bodies were identified by the numbers on their safety lamps. Many were mutilated and disfigured by the explosion.

B. Creneane, a survivor, was found in a walled-in space, raving and irrational from shock.

### Unlucky Mine

The explosion was the third misfortune to befall miners in No. 18. The first was an explosion in 1920 which resulted in loss of life and gave the mine a reputation of being "hot," an adjective applied to gaseous mines. In 1923 the tri-state tornado swept away the tipple and men at work were forced to climb to the surface through the air shafts.

The mine was flooded with water for two years by the management after the 1920 explosion in an effort to extinguish a slow fire.

It was found necessary later to wall off a large portion of the underground workings because of gas and yesterday's explosion was within a short distance of the 23 inch concrete wall.

### List of Victims

A revised list of the dead today included the name of Walter Brandon of Herrin, a former preacher turned coal miner. The name of George Carter was omitted. The other dead are: Carl Jones, David McPhail, Walter Graves, Ed Dodd, E. W. Duger, Albert Jones, Kelly Lawrence, Geo. Mahler, B. Tanner, Neely Hall, Andy White, Leonard Smith, Paul Kays, Ray Farrell, John Mitchell, Lloyd Bradley, Orval Simons, C. P. Caraway, all of West Frankfort, Jerald Day of Benton and Aubra Stone of Marion.