

# Six Men Entombed by Explosion

Expert Mine Rescue Crews Worked All Night in Effort to Reach Men in Mine in McDowell County.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 1 (AP)—Robert M. Lambie, chief of the West Virginia state department of mines left for Roderfield, this morning to personally direct efforts to locate six men, missing in the Princess Pocahontas Coal Company mine following a local gas explosion last night. Prior to leaving, Lambie declared that reports he had received from the mine said that rescue workers approached within 500 feet of the men this morning and that considerable difficulty was being experienced.

Bluefield, W. Va., Dec. 1 (AP)—Bratticing off bad air and gas as they moved slowly forward mine rescue crews today were endeavoring to reach six men missing since an explosion last night in the Princess Pocahontas Coal Company mine on Spice Creek near Roderfield in McDowell county. Little hope of finding the men alive remained today after the rescue workers had battled throughout the night in an effort to force their way to the spot, where what was believed to have been a local gas explosion occurred. The missing men were Sam Guy, Kyle Woolridge and his son, Clarence, Henry Daniels, Phil Foutz and Henry Lester, a seventh man, Dewey England, in the mine at the time of the blast escaped uninjured. Upon reaching the surface last night, he said that he was about 1,000 feet from his companions at the time of the explosion. He said he was unable to go to the of the other men because of the bad air and gas. Gas filled the mine immediately after the explosion and the first efforts to reach the men failed.

Rescue crews were called from nearby points but were handicapped in reaching the mine by slippery mountain roads. Shortly after midnight, six fully equipped crews had reported at the mine and shortly thereafter, the first crew had started the search for the men. The first crew penetrated the mine for a distance of nearly half a mile before gas and bad air prevented further

worthy of special mention. Other special musical numbers included a quartet "That Still Small Voice" from the Central Baptist church; two quartets by the Alderson girls and a duet from the Central Baptist church. At the close of the program, all assembled in the church room upstairs for the evening session.

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The evening program was begun with a devotional hymn and responsive reading and prayer with Mrs. Gladys Hinton Conner presiding for Mrs. S. O. Norton of Charleston who was unable to be present.

The special music, an organ selection by Frank Grant, a solo by Mrs. Lillian Grant, a quartet from the First Baptist church including Mr. Grant, Worth Wray, Mrs. Grant and Mrs. S. A. Sowers and a duet from the Central Baptist church gave a fitting background for the inspira-

progress. Throughout the night, one of the crews was constantly at work underground, fighting back bad air and moving toward the missing miners. The crews were headed by Perce Thornburg, formerly of the United States department of mines. W. B. Lee, of Welch and Thomas Stockdale of Bramwell, state mine inspectors and L. E. Quennon of Keystone and Hary Butler, of Welch, both trained rescue workers.

## Mt. Hope Banker Sent To Prison

Arthur C. Renick, confessed absconding cashier of the First National bank of Mount Hope, was sentenced Wednesday by Federal Judge George W. McClintic to serve five years in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta.

Renick, who was indicted at the present term of federal court, gave "dissipation" as the reason for embezzling about \$11,000, when he appeared before the Judge Wednesday afternoon. He said he had been "drinking" and pressed for funds, had embezzled money belonging to the bank and its patrons.

The charges against the former cashier were known only to the federal officials during the last few days, inasmuch as the report of the banking examiners had not been received until the last days of the grand jury session. Pending Renick's arrest, the charges were not made public.

Renick was cashier of the Mount Hope bank for about eight years, and was a prominent citizen of the Fayette town. He is a married man and has about five children.