

Five Miners Killed

Trapped in the lower level of the Glenn mine above Forest Hill five miners, were suffocated to death when fire broke out in an upper level and the fumes were driven 1500 feet below ground last Monday.

The five men were entombed and expired before rescuers could extinguish the flames and save them.

The fire broke out Monday morning and destroyed all the surface buildings of the mine and started a forest blaze.

It was not extinguished for several hours and not until late afternoon could the lower level of the mine be reached and the five dead be taken out. They were indentified as:

G. H. Henry, Sacramento, address undetermined.

James Campini, Placerville.

E. C. Shepherd, Roseville.

Tom Capitan and Joseph Shearer, Forest Hill.

Harry Hansen and Ernest Carlson escaped.

The fire was reported to have started in the blacksmith shop spreading rapidly to adjacent buildings, destroying machine shop, compressor room, change house and other structures. Then the flames spread to the surrounding forest and soon a forest fire was raging. This was placed under control after a desperate battle by 15 men working under supervision of state fire guards.

E. P. Gleason, district ranger at Forest Hill, and Guards O. M. Brown, John Nagunson and Ben Green directed the fire fighting and rescue work at the mine.

The men are believed to have been at work on the upper level when the fire broke out. They worked their way to the lower level to escape the suffocating fumes but could not reach safety in time.

It is said that a shaft connects the two tunnels in the rear but for some reason it must have been block.

The destruction of the compressor made it impossible for mine officials to clear the smoke drifts from the tunnels, it was said.

Recue workers were ordered from Grass Valley and other mine points, but before they could start they were notified that their assistance was not needed.

The Glenn Mine is owned by George McAulay, A. K. Robinson and others, but was under option to Senator J. M. Inman and associates of Sacramento. Only about two weeks ago a rich strike at the mine was reported.

With most of the mines in the mountains, everything, blacksmith shop, cook house, store room and powder house, are located immediately in front of the mouth of the tunnel. All are covered with snow sheds. It may be presumed that when the fire started the tunnel acted as a flue and drew the smoke into it. Smoke from the timber alone would not have been sufficient to suffocate the men; other fumes probably combined with smoke to make it deadly.

County Coroner C. B. Hislop held an inquest last night.