

January 13, 1930; Peerless Mine, Straven, Ala.;
7 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by F. E. Cash)

A local gas ignition at 3: 35 p. m. resulted in the death of 7 of the 25 men in the mine. The body of gas was small ; and the large gob area back of No. 8 right longwall allowed expansion, so that no pressures built up and coal dust was not raised or ignited. Seven men were working on No. 8 wall and 2 others on the entry at the bottom of the wall.

A mining machine was cutting near the top of the wall where the air current did not circulate, because the packwall had not been brought closer than 35 feet to the end of the wall. Gas accumulated and was ignited by the open-type mining machine. All seven men were in the rather small area covered by the flame and were killed (fig. 80). There was no damage to the mine, and the victims were removed at once.

One was living but died the next day. The wall boss had left his flame safety lamp on the entry, and no examination for gas had been made after a shot had been fired shortly before the explosion.