

# INSPECTOR PLANS OPEN HEARINGS

Bodies Held in Morgue, Shaft  
Untouched Waiting Official Check

ALL DEAD ARE RECOVERED

Some Found Three Miles Under-  
ground; Only One Man Unmarried

Madrid, N. M., Dec. 8 (AP) --Madrid mining folk passed along streets gaily bedecked with Christmas greens today to an improvised morgue where federal and state officials will open their investigation of a mine explosion that snuffed out 14 lives yesterday.

Warren Bracewell, state mine inspector, ordered the mine, the Morgan-Jones colliery, left undisturbed after the bodies of the 14 dead miners were removed from the shaft last night. Nothing in the mine will be moved until the federal and state officials have completed their investigation.

Bracewell rushed to the shaft yesterday from Albuquerque as soon as news of the disaster reached there. He went underground immediately after he arrived here but from his hasty inspection drew no conclusions as to the cause of the blast which occurred a few minutes after the workers had gone on duty for the day.

### HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

The state inspector notified federal mine officials at Denver at the tragedy and Edward Denny, district federal mine inspector was expected here today to cooperate in the investigation. Bracewell announced public hearings probably will be held.

Some of the bodies were found three miles underground in the shaft late yesterday. Four were discovered earlier in a drift closer to the mine entrance. Mine officials ordered all the bodies assembled in a shaft a short distance underground and they were held there until last night when they were removed.

An anxious crowd of relatives and townspeople stood in groups about the mouth of the mine as rescue workers sought the bodies of 16 of the miners who had been entombed at the far end of the shaft. With stoic calm they received a message during the afternoon from the rescue workers that all hope of finding the miners alive had faded.

All but one of the workers were married. Many of the wives were in the crowd that gathered but they refused to believe their husbands were dead until the bodies were brought to the surface.

A hush fell over the gathering as mine officials announced the dead workers had been brought to a point in the shaft close to the entrance and would be removed to the morgue.

### BRINGS OUT SON

One by one the bodies appeared, carried by the roughly dressed, blackened rescue workers, their miners' lamps flickering in the darkness. Here and there a wo-

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man sobbed, children clinging to their aprons. But the crowd was orderly and except for a slight surge forward there was no movement.

The bodies, swathed in blankets, were placed on heavy trucks and were carried a mile to the hospital of the Albuquerque and Cerrillos Coal company, owners of the mine. Here the improvised morgue was set up and the miners were formally identified through tags they wore and by relatives.

The company then formally announced the following list of dead:

- Bony Gabaldon, 37.
- Augustine Padilla, 38.
- Angel Ortiz, 34.
- Guadalupe Morales, 23.
- Pablo Escarino, 32.
- Julien Ynostraza, 34.
- Manuel Cabera, 34.
- Telsfor Macias, 30.
- Damacio Perez, 44.
- Julien Garcia, 45.
- Juan Acosta, 40.
- Francisco Torrejo, 28.
- Blazar Oaxaca, 40.
- Eusebio Ramos, 21.

Ramos was the only unmarried man of the group. All the other men have families ranging from three to eight children.

### THREE OVERCOME

Three men were overcome by dust after the explosion and were carried to safety by their fellow workmen. One was Jimmie Taylor, 19, son of H. L. Taylor, assistant superintendent of the mine. Andres Sampria, rushing out, picked up a prostrate form and discovered when he reached daylight he has rescued his own son, Pete. Both men were slightly hurt.

The first body to be found was that of Morales. He made a dash for safety but was overcome by gas and dust before he reached fresh air.

All the men who were killed apparently suffocated, officials said. The bodies were not mutilated.

Bracewell revealed that he had gone to the mine twice during the past week for an inspection. He found the shaft closed and the men not working on both occasions and planned to return yesterday afternoon. He said it is customary not to inspect a mine except when the men are on duty. The Morgan-Jones mine had been operating but three days a week.

Madrid is one of the oldest mining camps in the state. Its population is of mixed races.

The town had been decorated for the Christmas season the day before the explosion.

There have been several previous disasters in mines of the camp but none before in the Morgan-Jones shaft. In 1896 24 men were killed and a score injured in an explosion. In 1922 there were 14 men killed and the same number injured. Five lives were lost in another explosion on December 17, 1930.

Mine officials said many of New Mexico's mine disasters have occurred during periods a short time before Christmas. They said this is probably due to the extreme dryness of the air at that time of the year in this state. Explosions are more apt to occur when the air is dry, officials said.