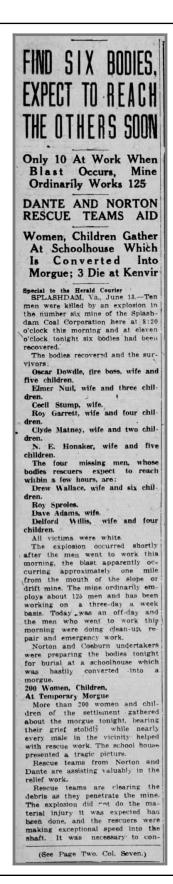
**Newspapers** 



1932 Splash Dam Mine explosion NEWS2

Clipped By: usmra\_rob May 3, 2025 **Newspapers** 

FIND SIX BODIES, EXPECT TO REACH THE OTHERS SOON (Continued from page one.) stantly give them fresh air because of the faulty gase.

Rescue work is in charge of A. G. Lucas, Virginia state mine inspector. D. E. Stanton, his assistant, and J. S. Davies of Norton station of the U. S. bureau of mines, are assisting him.

Cause of the explosion has not been ascertained, all efforts being concentrated on "rescue work. An investigation of the cause will be made after all bodies have been recovered.

The ten victims were the only men who reported for work this morning.

The body of Oscar Dowdle, fire boss, whose duty is to inspect the mine before workme enter, was the first discovered. It was 150 feet from the mine mouth, and George W. Walker, general manager of the Splashdam Coal Corp., said he was satisfied that Dowdle had completed his tour of inspection prior to the entrance of the workmen. of the faulty gas. was satisfied that Dowdle had com-pleted his tour of inspection prior to the entrance of the workmen when the explosion occurred. The bodies of Null and Stump were then discovered a thousand feet further on. Both bodies bore burns indicating that they were victims of the force of the ex-plosion. Later the bodies of Garrett, Mat-Later the bodies of Garrett, Mathey and Honaker were discovered. All indications were that they had been overcome by "black damp," the deadly poison that follows a mine explosion.

The other bodies were believed at or near a locomotive further back in the mine.

Flaines Belch From

Mouth of Mine

Rain drenched foliage on the banks of the McClure river was scorched by flames which burst, from the mouth of the mine. Five men in the adjoining and connecting mine number five did not feel the force of the explosion and knew nothing of it until informed.

The splashdam Coal Corporation, which is said to be owned by George C. Peery of the Virginia State Corporation Commission. George J. Walker, the general manager, and the estate of Barnes Gillespie, operates two mines here, called No. 5 and No. 6. The mines were opened in 1918.

Traces of gas have been frequently found in mine No. 6, but the situation has been completely handled during the entire operation by complete ventilation. Six years ago there was a minor explosion in the same mine, but none was killed.

The mine has undergone regular inspection and less than 30 days ago it was pronounced in 'A-1 working condition.

Splashdam is in a remote section of Dickenson county and there are approximately 800 persons residing here. The settlement is 40 miles from Norton and approximately 35 miles from Clintwood, the country seat. There is a neighboring mine four miles away, the Splashdam Smokeless Fuel Corporation, which is operated by Scott Litton.

First news of the explosion went to the outside world this morning by a telephone call to C. B. Neel, of Norton, secretary of the Virginia Coal Operators' Association, at 8:30 o'clock, asking for rescue assisfance. Mr. Neel, his son. Alex Neel. Paul MacDonald, inspector, and others, came here immediately.

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