

## GAS KILLS FOUR IN A MINE NEAR FULTON

Monoxide Poisoning Causes  
Death of Metz Brothers  
Late Monday Evening

### FIFTH MAN AFFECTED

J. T. WOLFE STILL IN SERIOUS  
CONDITION—RESCUERS HAM-  
PERED IN WORK

Carbon monoxide fumes from a gasoline motor pump claimed the lives of four men—brothers—and another man is in a serious condition at the Callaway Hospital in Fulton, as a result of an effort to remove water from the bottom of a coal mine shaft on the Louis Metz place, two miles west of Fulton, Monday night.

The dead are Louis Metz, 34, Ernest Metz, 23, Harry Metz, 26, and Freddie Metz, 21, brothers. The man in a serious condition in the hospital is T. J. Wolfe, foreman of the city street department of Fulton, and father-in-law of Louis Metz.

Louis Metz was preparing to open the mine for production this fall and winter and secured the aid of his father-in-law in pumping out the water. The two were at work in the shaft when they were overcome and the other three brothers, Ernest, Harry and Freddie, were overcome when they attempted to rescue the two.

It was about 7:15 o'clock Monday evening when the first two were overcome by the fumes and they were removed from the shaft about 10:00 o'clock and brought to the hospital in Fulton. It was 3:59 a. m., Tuesday, when the last of the other three bodies was recovered.

Missouri Bureau of Mine officials were notified of the accident soon after it occurred and rushed to the scene to take charge of the operations. Evan Jones, deputy inspector was first to arrive, coming here from Higbee and later in the night, Arnold Griffith, chief inspector, his brother, T. W. Griffith, a deputy inspector, and Frank Hunch, deputy inspector, of Richmond, Mo., arrived here from Excelsior Springs, making the drive by automobile.

The preliminary rescue work was done by Fultonians. Jess Piersen and Glenn Findling, the latter a member of the Fulton Fire Department, descended into the mine and placed ropes around the bodies of Mr. Wolf and Louis Metz, enabling them to be taken out and removed to the hospital. Metz was dead upon arrival there, however.

After the arrival of Fire Chief T. M. Walden of Columbia, who brought over a tank of oxygen and two masks, two of his firemen—Raymond Fenton and M. S. Woods—went into the shaft and recovered two bodies from the seven feet of water in the bottom of the pit. Later, Woods and Chief Inspector

Arnold Griffith of the Bureau of Mines descended into the mine and recovered the last body.

The alarm concerning the accident was given by Maynard Chirside, an automobile salesman from the W. Scott Fox garage, and a business of the Metz family by marriage who had gone to the Louis Metz home to demonstrate an automobile.

When Mr. Chirside was informed by Mrs. Metz that Louis Metz was at the mine he proceeded to the scene about half a mile away over a rough road. Upon his arrival probably about 7:15 o'clock he found Mr. Metz and Mr. Wolfe preparing to pump out the mine shaft.

The two had placed the pump and engine on the hoist and Louis Metz let it down about 20 feet to within ten feet of the water by hand. Louis Metz then climbed down the ladder to the platform of the hoist. Mr. Wolfe let down to him the hose to be attached to the pump and then went down the ladder to the platform.

After the hose connection was tightened to the motor Louis Metz left the hoist platform climbing through the ladder on the north side of the shaft and dipped water which he handed to Mr. Wolfe for use in priming the pump. Mr. Wolfe then started the gasoline engine.

Metz dipped water and it was poured into the pump a second time without success. Metz then came back on the platform to work with the pump, the engine still running, and Mr. Wolfe climbed out of the shaft to secure grease from a truck, to be used on the pump. He descended again and both Metz and Wolfe worked with the machinery with the motor continuing to run and puffing out carbon monoxide fumes.

Mr. Metz went through the ladder a third time and handed up a container of water. The pump still refused to work and he dipped for a fourth time. As he lifted himself toward the platform, Mr. Chirside said his arm gave way and he dropped the bucket of water. He climbed up a couple of steps to the platform and collapsed in such a position that it was later impossible to raise the hoist to rescue the two men.

As Mr. Metz collapsed, Mr. Wolfe sensed the trouble and shut off the motor. About that time however, the carbide miner's lamp which they had on the platform with them, went out, evidently because of bad air. Mr. Wolfe asked Metz how to light it but Metz's answer was only a mumble. Mr. Wolf called up to Mr. Chirside about how to light the lamp and then told him to go and get help.

Mr. Chirside rushed to the Louis Metz home but found the telephone out of order. He then went to the Fritz Metz place, a mile away, and called the Fulton Fire Department, ambulances and a doctor. On his return to the mine, the three brothers, Ernest, Harry and Freddie Metz, accompanied him. They pass-

## VICTIMS OF TRAGEDY



LOUIS METZ



ERNEST METZ



HARRY METZ



FRED METZ

ed Marcus Hill, a brother-in-law, and told him to bring a light and come on to the mine.

Upon arrival at the mouth of the mine Freddie and Harry went down in an attempt to rescue their brother and Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Hill arrived then and suggested that Chirside return to the house to direct help to the mine, and Mr. Chirside was not there when the other three brothers were overcome.

It was evident, however, that the brothers climbed through the ladder with a view to placing Louis Metz back on the hoist platform and they succeeded in doing this, but

in the meantime, they themselves were overcome and their bodies fell into the seven feet of water in the sump under the hoist.

Soon afterward the fire department arrived, with ropes and Jess Piersen, a Fulton alder, and Glenn Findling, fireman, volunteered to go down and tie the ropes around the two men on the platform. Both men descended, with only a handkerchief over their faces, and succeeded in placing the rope around Mr. Wolfe. They were hoisted out of the shaft and Mr. Wolfe was then pulled up.

The two entered the shaft a second time, but before they could place the rope on Louis Metz's body, they had to be pulled out of the shaft, both being affected by the gas. Later Piersen descended a third time and secured the rope and Louis Metz was taken out.

Later, Roy C. Anthony of Fulton donned an army gas mask and descended into the shaft in an attempt to locate the other three bodies, but he was overcome by the gas and had to be taken out. Persons around the mine worked with him some time after he was lifted out.

When Evan Jones, deputy inspector of the Bureau of Mines arrived on the scene, he suggested use of an air compressor to force the fumes out of the shaft. This equipment was mounted on a truck by Claude Crowmen and taken to the mine, where it was used as the Columbia firemen went down with masks on.

The Columbia men made two higher at the rescue in the bottom the first time, and two of the bodies were secured and lifted from the mine and placed in a waiting ambulance. The first body was brought up at 3:10 o'clock, the second at 3:15 and the last at 3:50.

The four brothers are survived by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Metz, the father recently dismissed from a Boneville Hospital and in ill health, one brother, Carl Metz, and two sisters, Mrs. Marcus Hill and Mrs. Roy Willett. Louis Metz is survived by his widow, the former Miss Elsie Wolfe, and a six-month-old son. The blow was a heavy one for the family and friends and expressions of sorrow were heard on all sides Tuesday.

## KINGDOM CITY BOY DISAPPEARS MONDAY

Doris Love, 17, Leaves on  
Bicycle and Has Not  
Been Seen Since

### SEARCH BEING MADE

STATE PATROL, AIDING IN HUNT  
—FEAR ENTERTAINED FOR  
HIS SAFETY

Doris Love, 17-year-old son of Edgar Love who lives on the old Howard Meir farm a mile east of Kingdom City, has been missing since Monday afternoon and although the State Patrol has been broadcasting for him and a local search has been made by the family he was still unsupported late Tuesday afternoon. The young man left his home Monday afternoon on his bicycle saying that he was going to the Tommie Joe Atkinson garage a mile west of Kingdom City. He did not return home that evening and as this was something that had never occurred before the family began making inquiries for him.

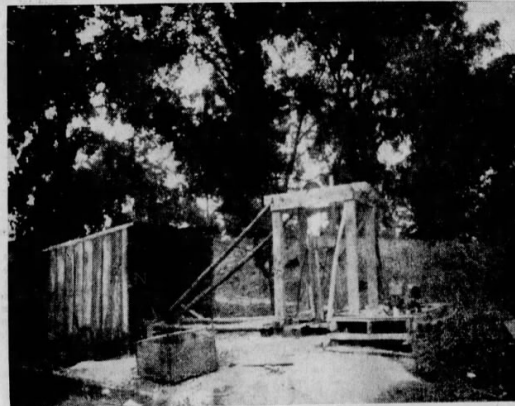
Those at the Atkinson garage said that he had not been there that afternoon or evening and they had not heard anything from him. Search was made for him in the Williamsburg neighborhood, his former home, but he had not been seen about there. Sam Crane, merchant at Williamsburg, said he had seen someone about his size on a bicycle on Highway 40 about dark but was not certain that it was young Love.

Doris has never absented himself from home before without the knowledge and permission of his father and has never manifested any inclination to "take a trip." It is because of these facts that fear is entertained for his safety.

He is a brother of Mrs. J. Russell Craighead of Westminster avenue, and has often visited in Fulton.

Indifference is the proof and the only proof when a man says he isn't interested in feminine company.

## WHERE FOUR METZ BROTHERS LOST THEIR LIVES, MONDAY NIGHT



Coal mine on Louis Metz farm, three miles northwest of Fulton, in which he and his three brothers lost their lives. He had lowered a gasoline engine, with pump attached, into the shaft to clear the water in preparation for digging coal this winter. Carbon monoxide soon filled the shaft bringing death to the four who ventured into the shaft. The engine and pump may be seen on the platform after they had been pulled from the mine.