

HOW THREE DIED IN MINE TRYING TO SAVE BROTHER

**When Owner of Fulton
Shaft Collapsed From
Gas, Father-in-Law Told
Friend to Call Help.**

By the Associated Press.

FULTON, Mo., Sept. 1.—Three of the four brothers who were killed by carbon-monoxide from a gasoline engine in the Metz coal mine near here yesterday gave their lives in an effort to save the fourth and his father-in-law, it was disclosed today. The body of the fourth brother was removed yesterday and the other three today.

The bodies of the three were brought up from the shallow shaft of the Metz mine, three and one-half miles northwest of here, by Raymond Fenton and M. S. Woods, Columbia (Mo.) firemen. The rescue work was directed by Fire Chief T. M. Walden of Columbia, and Arnold Griffith, State Mining Inspector.

Walden, wearing an oxygen mask, went down into the hole where Louis Metz, 32 years old, owner of the mine, was killed first, and directed operations. Metz' father-in-law, T. J. Wolfe, 52, who was saved by Roy Anthony, a war veteran, is in a critical condition.

At the bottom, Walden found the bodies of Metz' three brothers, Freddie, 18; Ernest, 28, and Harry, 23, who had entered the narrow 30-foot shaft one by one.

Still in Critical Condition.

Wolfe remained in a hospital here in a critical condition, but attendants said they had noted some improvement through the night. He had been pulled from the shaft unconscious by Jesse Pierson, a coal miner, and Glenn Findling, Fulton fireman.

Pierson, breathing through a handkerchief, made three trips down into the shaft before he succeeded in getting the body of Louis Metz.

The elder Metz and Wolfe entered the mine about sundown last night to pump water from the floor so they could work today. Masnard Chirnside, who had accompanied them to discuss a business deal, discovered they had been overcome as they were taking the pump into the shaft and summoned aid.

"I saw Metz reach for a ladder

extending into the shaft," Chirnside said, "then his arms dropped back, and his body wedged itself between the cage holding the pump and the shaft wall.

"Their miners' lamp went out, apparently because of the deadly gas screen, then Wolfe called up and told me to go for help."

Runs for Help.

Chirnside ran a mile to the home of Metz' father, Fred Sr. The three brothers hurried to the mine where one by one they went into the shaft. They were only at the bottom a few minutes before witnesses from above saw them plunge headlong into seven feet of water on the mine floor.

The elder Metz and Wolfe, who is a city employe here, had been letting the pump down by hand on a cage. Chirnside said about 10 feet from the bottom of the shaft they encountered trouble in starting it, and it apparently began sending out carbon monoxide immediately.

Chirnside told how Wolfe, after seeing his son-in-law fall, shut off the engine and attempted to aid him until overcome by the gas himself.

Rescue workers, with little room to work, pulled the bodies of the victims from the mine with ropes.

The mine, opened last winter, had been shut down for the summer months. The disaster was the

second in less than two weeks. Two miners lost their lives in a fire and cave-in at a mine near Moberly, Mo., 40 miles away, less than two weeks ago.

Funeral services for the four Metz brothers will be held at the Central Christian Church west of here at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

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