# Poison Gas Keeps Rescuers Out of Coal Mine Shaft

## Bodies of Three Sought, Fourth Brother's Body Brought to Surface

**Fulton, Mo.** — (P) — Overcoming deadly carbon monoxide gas, rescue workers today claimed the bodies of three brothers who gave their lives in an heroic attempt to save another brother and his father-in-law from Missouri's second coal mine tragedy within two weeks.

**Fulton, Mo.**—(P)—A poison gas screen and three feet of water concealed the bodies of three brothers from rescuers in a shallow mine shaft, a fourth brother was dead when brought to the surface and his father-in-law was in critical condition today as the result of Missouri's second coal mine disaster within two weeks.

Louis Metz, 32, owner of the Metz mine near here, was overcome last night by gas while in the mine with his father-in-law, T. J. Wolfe, 53, and his three brothers who entered the narrow 30-foot shaft, one by one, in an heroic attempt to rescue them died the same way. They were Freddie, 21; Ernest, 23, and Harry, 19.

Carbon monoxide gas from the fumes of a gasoline engine in the shaft was believed to have caused the deaths.

The elder Metz and Wolfe entered the mine about sundown to pump water from the floor so they could work today. Maynard Chirnside, who had accompanied them to the mine entrance to discuss a business deal, later discovered them overcome near the gasoline engine and summoned aid. Metz was dead. Wolfe was found unconscious and his condition was said to be critical. Their bodies were brought to the surface by Roy Anthony, a war veteran, before he was partially overcome.

Each of the brothers who entered the mine failed to return and their rescue was delayed overnight until water had been pumped from the bottom of the mine and fresh air forced into the shaft so rescuers might safely enter it. The mine has no air shaft.

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.

**1936 Metz Coal Mine Asphyxiations**
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