

Ore And Powder Trains Collide In Mine Passage

**Four Killed Outright, Two Suffocated By Gas
And Five Others Injured At Walker
Copper Mine, Spring Garden In
The Quincy District**

SPRING GARDEN, Cal., Feb. (UP)—Four miners were killed outright and two suffocated by gas when an ore train struck a powder train, causing a terrific explosion which shook the drifts and slopes of the Walker copper mine, in the Quincy country.

Five other men on the same level were knocked down by the concussion but their injuries were slight and they aided fellow workers on the night shift in removing the bodies of the victims.

The four who were killed instantly were riding on the ore train when it collided, with a loaded powder train. The two other victims were working in a shaft above the point of the explosion and were overcome by gas, according to L. F. Bayer, manager of the mine.

The six who were killed were Lloyd Gilbert, Pat Burns, Herb Blauel and W. Schasker, riding on the train, and Louis Ghina and Carl Doming, working in a shaft. Burns was the only victim who was married.

Because of the "hard rock" nature of the mine, the explosion caused no serious damage to the drift where the blast occurred. It demolished the powder train and wrecked a section of the track.

No Witnesses

"Since the only witnesses—the four men riding on the train—were killed," Bayer told the United Press, "we don't know what caused the accident—why the ore train collided with the powder train. We can only guess. We don't know whether the train got out of control, whether a thrown switch was responsible, or what caused the collision.

"Perhaps our investigation, in collaboration with the State Industrial Accident commission, may determine the cause."

Although the accident occurred about 10 o'clock last night, word of the tragedy did not reach the outside world until today. The Walker mine is "snowed in" for the winter, and can be reached only by means of a tram line used to transport ore from the mine to a railroad spur at Spring Garden. The nearest town of considerable size is Quincy, 12 miles from here.

Coroner John F. Moody of Quincy was en route to the mine via the tram line to study the scene of the explosion and take charge of the bodies. Ambulances waited here to receive the bodies and take them to Quincy.