

SADDENED SURVIVORS ATTEND PRACO SERVICES

Weary, saddened families Sunday attended funeral services for their dead after the tragedy which took six lives and injured three Friday at the Praco Mine of the Alabama By-Products Corporation. At the same time, those who escaped recalled vivid memories of their escapes with thankful hearts.

Bivens Allender, 45, a miner for 13 years, probably came nearer to the avalanche of death than the other eyewitness, Claude White, who controlled an electric motor operating coal conveyors.

Allender said he was working with the nine men who were trapped under the wall, but was ordered away to another wall by J. I. Wingard, assistant mine superintendent, one of the victims.

"I had just stepped over the pans (conveyor) when the wall came down. At first I thought it was an explosion, but looked back and saw a cloud of dust.

"I saw the body of Lloyd Painter (the first whose body was brought out later), and he was half covered up. I started to him, but the wall started again, and I ran.

When I came back, he was covered up. I went for help."

The escape of White, the other eyewitness, also seemed miraculous. He said he started walking toward an entry, but changed his mind and walked in the other direction, when the wall suddenly collapsed at the entry for which he had first started.

Allender said his back and neck were peppered with pellets of rock and coal.

"I've been a miner here 13 years, and never had a serious accident. I'll go back, of course, that's my living and my job, but no more long walls for me."

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1938 Praco No 7 Rock Fall NEWS2

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UTES HELD FOR CAVEIN VICTIMS

**Suddenness Of Tragedy
In Mine Described
By Survivor**

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The last body was brought from the mine at 6 p.m. Saturday. The collapse occurred Friday morning.

The supreme tragedy of the disaster was the death of J. D. Painter while being brought to the surface early Saturday morning. Talking strongly during his 18 hours imprisonment, he finally was freed and his family notified that he was being brought to the top. But his family met a dead body when he finally was brought up—he had died from what doctors said was "mostly shock" when two-thirds of the way up. His brother was the first to be brought out dead Friday morning.

Funeral services for J. D. Painter were held Sunday at McCormick Church, near Sumiton, and for his brother, Lloyd Painter, at Liberty Grove Church, near Haleyville. Surviving each are a wife and child, their parents and several brothers and sisters.

Services for J. I. Wingard, 35, assistant mine superintendent, were held at Flat Creek Methodist Church, the Rev. A. L. Woods and the Rev. Frank Ledford officiating. Burial was in Elmwood Cemetery. Surviving are his wife; two daughters, Alice and Mary Wingard; his father, Irwin Wingard, and a sister, Mrs. John Armstrong, both of Wilsonville, and five brothers, Burk Wingard, LaFayette, Ga.; Capt. Hoyt Wingard, Fort Knox, Ky.; Clarence Wingard, Detroit, and John and Thomas Wingard, both of Wilsonville.

Morgan Funeral Held

Last rites for Howard Morgan were held Sunday at the Dora Holiness Church. Surviving are his wife and four children.

Services for Leonard E. Dockins, 27, of Dora, were held Sunday at Good Hope Church, near Sayre. Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Dockins, one brother and five sisters.

Services for J. W. Peffers, 26, also of Dora, were held Sunday at the Nazarene Church in Dora. Surviving are his wife, a daughter, five brothers and three sisters.

Hillhouse, terming the disaster "the first major accident" in its class in the history of mining in Alabama, said investigation probably would be completed next week.

He pointed out that the Praco mines were among the most modern in the state, having a record of 1,350,000 tons of coal mined since the first fatal accident in May, 1936.