

No. 8 Mine, which is operated by the Kemmerer Coal Company, and located about fifteen miles south of Kemmerer, Wyoming.

On August 10, the State Coal Mine Inspection Department made an investigation into the accident resulting in the death of the aforesaid. From the evidence submitted by Justus Aho and Albin Zahatnick, the partners of Matt Bronskole, Bronskole was shoveling coal on the north side of the room, where his partners had prepared a place to set a prop. They thought that Bronskole might disturb the place they had prepared to set the timber and Bronskole said he would move over on the south side of the room. He had only been working there a few minutes when the rock fell that caused his death. This portion of the room is 22 feet wide and 34 feet long and requires timber 15 feet in length plus a cap piece. The roof is shaly in nature and moist. From the condition of the room, it was impossible for any one to scound the roof, as there was not sufficient coal to stand on to reach the roof. There were only two props set in the place, the workmen stating that they had set these props the first thing in the morning. They were on the north side of the sheet iron that conveys the coal down the room. The prop that they were preparing to set was also on the north side of the sheet iron. There was no timber on the south side for a distance of 34 feet.

This Department feels that where top coal is being shot down before the room is finished and while there is yet plenty of coal in the room for men to stand on, that cross-bars hitched in the coal on one side and slipped on the other with a proper amount of lagging will prevent like occurrences in the future; and further, that the mine management sees that men employed in this kind of work secure the place before attempting to remove any of the coal. We don't agree that two timber, 15 feet long, spaced at intervals of 6, 8 and 10 feet, gives the needed security for the men working therein.

J. M. Sampson,                      Robert T. Reay,  
State Coal Mine Inspector.      Deputy Coal Mine Inspector.

Office of

STATE INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES

Rock Springs, Wyoming

**CAVE-IN ON THE MUDDY CREEK COAL MINE**

On November 9, 1939, about 4:30 P. M. a fall of rock occurred, resulting in the death of the following named five men: James Lee Stackhouse, 40 years of age, survived by his wife, two children and a step-daughter; Santos (Sammy) Valdez, 38 years of age, survived by his wife; Raymond George Potter, 26 years of age, survived by his parents, one sister and four brothers; Ferral W. Haywood, 30 years of age, survived by a sister, and Wesley Blessing, 19 years of age, survived by his father.

The rock that fell causing the death of the aforementioned men measured 30 feet by 16 feet by 9 inches in thickness. It fell without any perceptible warning as testified by Mrs. Stackhouse, who was the only witness to the tragedy. It is evident from the testimony given at the Inquest and from personal observation, that the men had had no previous experience in mining, inasmuch as not a single prop had been set in the room for a distance of 75 feet and which measured 30 feet wide.

This is a truck or wagon mine, located about thirty-two miles southwest of Rawlins, in Carbon County, and is known as the Muddy Creek Coal Mine and is an operation of which this Department had no knowledge. According to testimony given by Frank LeMoine, under-sheriff of Carbon County, Mr. Stackhouse had started operations about October 1st.

The State Mine Inspection Department was notified about the accident as quickly as possible, but were unable to arrive at the mine before the afternoon of the 10th. The bodies having been removed sometime previous, Mr. Frank LeMoine leading and instructing the men in the party who recovered the bodies and brought them to the outside. It was also brought out at the Inquest that Mr. Stackhouse had no permit or lease to the property in which the operation was located. We feel certain that had this office been notified of this operation, that this tragic affair could have been prevented.

Word was brought to the city of Rawlins by Mrs. Lee Stackhouse, wife of the operator, who at the time of the accident was in the mine standing approximately six feet from where the rock broke off that killed her husband and the other four men; Stackhouse, Potter, Haywood and Blessing were the men working in the mine, Valdez being a visitor.

This Department feels that in the future no lease or permit should be given to anyone, other than those who are qualified to act as foremen, or those who may be in a position to employ a certified mine foreman to act for them or themselves in the State of Wyoming, thus eliminating the danger of a recurrence of this character.

J. M. Sampson,                      Robert T. Reay,  
State Coal Mine Inspector.      Deputy Coal Mine Inspector.

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STATE INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES

Rock Springs, Wyoming

**FATAL ACCIDENT INVOLVING LOUIS ZANCANELLA**

Louis Zancanella, age 56, Tyrolese and single, was fatally injured on December 21, 1939, at approximately 12:30 A. M. in the Rock Springs No. 8 Mine, property of the Union Pacific Coal Com-