

Weary Shovelers Valiantly Carry on Quest at Dines Southern Mine — Two Injured Survivors Recovering at Picher.

PICHER, Feb. 1.—The bodies of two of five miners crushed to death Tuesday in one of the worst disasters in the history of the Tri-State mining field were sought by weary shovelers today at the Southern mine of the Dines Mining company.

Regular crews of the Muncie and Southern properties—about 40 men in all—continued the quest for the bodies in an enormous mass of rock and dirt, estimated at 20 feet in depth at certain points in the dirt, 300 feet underground. The mine is about one and one-half miles northwest of here, just over the Kansas line.

At 4:20 a. m. today the body of the third death victim, James Orval Campbell, 34, of Galena, Kas., was brought to the surface by rescue workers, who had shoveled frantically throughout the night and into the first traces of dawn.

Two Still Buried

Still underground, buried deeply under huge chunks of rock and dirt, are the bodies of Frank Porter, 40, of Wilburton, a small town near Treece, and Harry Burtrum, 32, of Galena. Hopes for their lives had been abandoned last night by H. C. Snodgrass, district mine inspector in Kansas.

The bodies of two other victims, Jess C. Crossland, 35, of near Picher, and Fred McCumber, 24, of Galena, were removed from underneath tons of dirt at 3:30 p. m. and 7:45 p. m., respectively.

Two Are Recovering

Wesley Anderson, 21, of Columbus, Kas., and Louis Hansbreggh, 35, of Galena, were reported "doing nicely" at the American hospital. They were the only members of the crew of seven to escape death. Neither was critically injured, although it was feared Anderson suffered a serious head injury.

The name of John Anderson was inadvertently listed among the casualty victims yesterday. He was not in the drift at the time.

Collapse of the roof over the drift in which the seven were working occurred in early afternoon. Snodgrass estimated the weight of the thumping slabs and dirt at 8,000 to 10,000 tons. Other estimates were considerably lower, most averaging about 3,000 tons.

"Pillar Trimmed Too Close"

Snodgrass said a pillar supporting the roof "had been trimmed too close" to hold the weight of the slab. He estimated the fall of the slab at 40 feet.

Underground workers dug feverishly last night. Instructed to ease the fast tempo which they set on first entering the mine, the rescue crews could not resist the urge of pressing on as quickly as possible. They tired rapidly toward midnight, the strain beginning to tell on the valiant shovelers and more volunteers were summoned to the

(Continued on Page Two)

MINERS TOIL TO RECOVER BODIES OF TWO MORE

Three Dead Taken Out of
Mine—Two Injured Are
Recovering

(Continued From Page One)

shaft by Sheriff Clarence Berger of Cherokee county.

Several hundred persons converged on the Dines property and more than 100 stayed through a greater part of the night. There were few remaining at the mouth of the shaft, however, when Campbell's body was hoisted out this morning.

Cold Winds Chills Crowd

A cold wind swept through the crowds gathered at the top of the shaft last night. Five Kansas state highway patrolmen, Sheriff Berger and County Attorney Joe Henbest of Columbus wore overcoats as they watched at the shaft and assisted in keeping the curious outside roped areas.

Traffic was prohibited into the immediate vicinity of the mine disaster. The orders to prevent more cars from congesting the narrow dirt road over which ambulances sped with the dead were issued early last night. They remained in effect today.

The mass of rock was described by the Kansas mine inspector as being about the size of a baseball diamond, approximately 90 by 45 feet.

40 in Mine at Time

Forty men worked in the mine at the time of the tragedy, but only seven were in the drift where the roof collapsed.

When the workmen will reach the bodies of the two men still entombed was still a matter of conjecture. It may be hours, or again only minutes until someone overturns a boulder shielding the corpse of one of the two men.

D. J. Donnell of the mine inspection department at Pittsburg assisted in the work underground. Ivan Fisher of Miami, Oklahoma district mine inspector, also cooperated in directing the rescuers. He remained underground for three hours on one trip to the drift.

Two Shafts Used in Rescue

Most volunteer shovelers were lowered to the bottom of the shaft at the Southern, but some were taken down the Muncie shaft, located only a few hundred yards from the ill-fated mine and interconnecting.

While the crowds were massed about the mouth of the shaft, a Picher miner, about 32, told a reporter that "I'm certainly very lucky, I guess, even though I did get stabbed Sunday." The miner L. J. Marler, said he was unable to report for work after being knifed, allegedly by an Afton man sought by county officers.

Marler, a shoveler, said he was personally acquainted with most of the accident victims. He was knifed below the nose and in the left arm.

Two of the bodies were removed

to Galena mortuaries for burial. The bodies of all the victims recovered thus far were badly crushed.

Funeral arrangements will be completed at Galent for McCumber and Campbell, while the body of Crossland was being prepared for burial at the Todd funeral home at Picher.

All five of the fatally injured workmen were married.

Crossland is survived by his wife, Mrs. Donna Crossland; two daughters, Wilna Jean, 4 years old, and Mary Marple, 2; three brothers, Oliver, Delmar and Frank Crossland, all of Zincville; two sisters, Mrs. Florence Clark of Los Angeles and Mrs. Gertie Mills of Girard, Kas., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Crossland of Picher.

Surviving McCumber are his widow, Virginia; one son, Johnny Wayne, 4 years old; his mother, Mrs. Grace McCumber of Black Jack, Kas., and three brothers, Frank McCumber of Carthage and Luther and Joe McCumber of Galena.

Campbell's survivors include his wife, Della; a son, Billy, and daughter, Betty, both of Bakersfield, Cal.; a stepson, Guy Morgan of the home; a half-brother, Wilbur Campbell, and two sisters, Mrs. Hazel Belcher of St. Joseph, Mo., and another living in California.

Burtrum, who had been employed only a month at the Southern mine, is survived by his wife, Wanda; two daughters, Peggy and Betty of Leeds, S. D.; mother, Mrs. Nellie Burtrum of Coffeyville; father, James Burtrum of Seneca; two sisters, Mrs. Hattie Sims of Welch and another at Coffeyville, and three brothers, Harold and

Paul Burtrum, both of Coffeyville, and Joe Burtrum of Idaho.

Red Cross on the Job

Within an hour and a half of the tragedy, the Baxter Springs Red Cross disaster committee was on the job with coffee, sandwiches and cigarets for the rescue workers.

The emergency kitchen, set up at the Tar Valley schoolhouse near the mine, was directed by Ivan D. Chubb of Baxter Springs. It was manned by Milo Chew, Wes Landrum and Mrs. O. M. Bilharz, all of Baxter Springs.

The workers prepared gallons of hot coffee, some 300 sandwiches, and distributed six cartons of cigarets.

Telephone Company Ready

On short notice, linemen and installation men working under the direction of Otis Saunders, manager of the Miami office of the Southwestern Bell Telephone company, rigged temporary lines for news and radio service.

More than 2,000 feet of line was run over chat piles and along hastily improvised poles. A telephone was installed in the "doghouse" near the mine shaft.

A telephone company employe stood by through the night, answering calls that poured in from news services all over the country and calling reporters whom editors were seeking to contact.

Trouble-shooters ranged the line all night, tracing down trouble that marred service from time to time.

TRUE TO THEIR CODE

(Continued from Page One)

above them was settling at the rate of from two to three inches hourly. However, it must be em-