

Mine Gets Pure Air For Start Of Inquiry In Seven-Death Blast

Beckley, W. Va., December 18—
(AP)—Pure air was sent coursing through the passageways of the Raleigh Coal and Coke Company's No. 4 mine again today while saddened relatives made funeral arrangements for six of the seven men killed in Tuesday's explosion.

Company officials said ventilation was restored to permit Federal and State Mine Inspectors to begin official investigations tomorrow without being hampered by oxygen helmets.

Three Federal Bureau of Mines representatives and three state inspectors, headed by Chief N. P. Rhinehart of the State Mine Department, will enter the "slope"

operation tomorrow to inspect the section where an explosion traveled for 400 feet.

It has not been determined whether it was a gas or dust explosion.

Meanwhile, the Beckley Hospital reported two of the six men injured in the explosion were in critical condition while the others were improving.

Elmer Warden, foreman, entered the hospital today for treatment for shock and a head laceration. He was one of those who helped bring out the first injured yesterday.

CINCINNATI MAN MARINE.

Emerson Pinney, 24 years old, 5744 Bramble Avenue, Madisonville, was one of three youths enlisted in the Marines yesterday. Samuel R. Coffey, 18, Athens, Ohio, and Alex C. Henson, Jr., 18, Corbin, Ky., were the others. They will be transferred today to Parris Island, S. C., for training.

1940 Raleigh No 4 Mine explosion NEWS4

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