

Fifteen Miners Trapped In Daniel Boone Mine Explosion With Two Dead From Falling Rock In E'ton

Rescue Work Splendidly Carried On By Volunteer Crews From Mines All Over This Section; Thirty-Eight Men Brought To Surface By Valiant Efforts

The lives of seventeen men were snuffed out on Monday of this week, fifteen in the Daniel Boone mine disaster near Nortonville, and two in the North Diamond mine of the West Kentucky Coal Co. in Earlington.

In the Daniel Boone mine the rescue of 38 men who avoided being trapped by an explosion at 7:10 a. m. Monday, was the result of herculean efforts by miners from far and wide who hurried to the scene to lend aid to the stricken co-workers. Under the direction of Paul Gannon, manager of the Stirling Coal Co., operators of the mine, normally employing 125 men, the rescue work proceeded as smoothly as though the entire action had been rehearsed.

The blief of experienced mine men is that the accident occurred as a result of a machine spark. The victims of the disaster were either killed by the explosion which wrecked the interior of the mine, or by gas resulting from the explosion. The trapped men were found about 2400 feet from the main entry and were employed as "Duck Bill" loaders.

The rescued men were in what is known as the sixth entry and when the blast came all of the men were able to get to the air shaft before being overtaken with after damp.

The elevator in the main entrance was put out of commission by the blast and the rescue work was started by bringing the survivors to the top with improvised barrels and ropes and hauling them out one at a time through the air shaft. Later several ladders were spliced together, following which the fire ladders of the Madisonville Fire Department were lowered into the shaft and expedited the efforts of the rescue crews.

The mine equipment is a twisted mass, it is stated. The multitudes of men in the mine are all said to have perished in the explosion. Deputy State Mine Inspector James Fugate of Madisonville, with the first of the rescue crew equipment arrived within a half hour of the

made it possible for the active workers to move about their respective duties without being hampered.

Fire Chief Toombs of the Madisonville department as well as the Nortonville firemen did yeoman work in assisting the workers. George Melton, district manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Co., arrived with a crew of men and under his direction telephone connections were made along the bottom of the shaft to expedite the rescue effort. E. K. Jones of the Kentucky Electric Power Co., likewise had a crew on the job to disconnect wires that might give the workers trouble and add service where it was needed.

Not a coal company in the entire section failed of representation among the rescue volunteers. Duvin mine employees from Providence, were on the scene speedily. The newspaper fraternity was represented by every nation-wide news agency under the direction of Edgar Arnold, of the Madisonville Messenger contacts were made with various rescued persons and mine bosses that elicited the information for the newspapers, speedily and accurately. James Robinson, of Earlington, photographed numerous scenes of the catastrophe and forwarded the pictures to the office. White portable radios were in operation by mid-afternoon, giving vivid descriptions of the occurrences of the moment.

Most of the bodies were unrecognizable when brought to the surface, and were identified by either physical marks, personal property or by numbers of their batteries on lights. Shipping tags were attached to the canvas covering the remains on which the name of the undertaking firm to take charge of the remains and selected by relatives were plainly marked.

At a Coroner's inquest held on Tuesday, the jury comprising Fred Beshear, Dawson Springs, foreman; J. N. Oates, W. E. Furgerson, W. G. Putnam, Farris Woodruff

The Dead

Foreman Will Compton, Daniel Boone, married, one daughter
Elberta Kay, Nortonville, married, five children
Robert Josey, Morton Gap, married, one child
Gus Pryor, Daniel Boone, married, two daughters
Mera Cunningham, Cross Roads, married, one child
Edgar Adams, St. Charles, married, three children
Neely Todd, St. Charles, married, three children
Junior Gamblin, Cross Roads, married, several children
Obba Wells, Nortonville, married, no children
Oto Sisk, Nortonville, married, no children
Benny Martin, Negro, Daniel Boone, married, two children
Robert Dunning, St. Charles, unmarried
Ben Pearson, Negro, Daniel Boone, married, no children
Joe Whitfield, Hill, married, two children
Goldie Gamblin, Cross Roads, married, four children

accident and with the help of Major Arthur Vinson, Madisonville, superintendent of the Hart Coal Co., Ray Cobb, superintendent of the Earlington mines of the West Kentucky Coal Co., organized and directed the various volunteer miners into crews to aid the entrapped men.

Within two hours the highways had parked cars which extended for a distance of over a mile from the scene of the rescue work and not until the State Highway patrol arrived with a complement of eight men were the thousands of spectators kept within bounds and

RESCUED

Elbert Rainey, Clayborn Gamblin, P. R. Whitfield, Luther Payne, G. Denton, Gilbert Pendley, John Buchanan, Herman Fork, John Bean, Jack Satterfield, Clayton Correll, Dixon Bean, Rubie Whitfield, Rufus Sizemore, Clarence Hammonds, Claude Denton, Luther Samples, Sanford Morris (colored), Willis Clark, Churchill Phelps, Bryan Naeve, Marvin Teague, Arnold Teague, Weaver Adams, Ed Owens (colored), Dell Furgerson, Loman Adams, Lawson Smith, Dewey Sizemore, John Forster, Eusey Knight, George Shenley, Jewel Knight, Dave Whitfield, and Andrew Morris (colored).

and H. W. Kappler, found that the men came to their death by an explosion, without attempting to set the cause. Four surviving witnesses of the disaster gave testimony. They were Gilbert Pendley, loader; Lawson Smith, motor runner; Dixon Bean, trackman and John Bean, mule driver. Their testimony put no new light on the cause for the explosion.

C. A. Herbert, Vincennes, Ind., district engineer for the U. S. Bureau of Mines, gave it as his opinion that the explosion was caused by a gas pocket. State and Federal mine inspectors are expected to conduct the customary investigations. Means of identifying some of the victims included a watch in possession of Robert Dunning. Keys in the pocket of Gus Pryor helped identify him. Otto Sisk by a truss he wore. Robert Josey by a gold tooth and missing finger.

The dead were removed in mine cars, three of which brought the 15 dead to the surface at 4 a. m. Tuesday. That some of the men suffered severely before passing away was evident from the conditions under which their remains were recovered. Ambulances from every funeral home in the district stood on the ground ready for instant service.

One of the victims, Ike Whitfield of Oak Hill, was in the mine for the first time since he was laid off last March.

Funeral services for the victims of the disaster will be held on
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Mine Disaster

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Wednesday and Thursday from their respective home communities.

Falling rock in the North Diamond mine resulted in the death of Clyde (Red) Austin of St. Charles, Ky., and John R. Phelps, of Madisonville, Ky., on Monday

evening at the North Diamond mine, in Earlington, to make the total deaths in Hopkins County mine disasters for one day seventeen.

Miss Annetta Cobb, a student at Transylvania College, Lexington, was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cobb during the week end.

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