Downloaded on Nov 8, 2025

SIX KILLED IN MINE BLAST

Lives of six miners were snuffed out and 17 were injured when a gas explosion rocked a section of Kent 2 mine of the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Co. at McIntyre Monday morning.

Rescue crews, after working almost four hours located the bodies of the six men in the debris-littered heading where the explosion occurred.

Of the 41 men working in the section, 17 were burned about the body, several of them seriously. They were taken to Indiana Hospital.

The other 18 men caught in the section of the explosion were either found by rescue crews or made their way to safety themselves.

The dead:

Elmer McGee, Aultman, assistant mine foreman.

William M. Clark, 52, Aultman, mechanic.

George Stockdale, Clune, mechanic.

Albert Doch, 20, Aultman, conveyor mover.

Joseph Bedzyk, 31, Aultman. conveyor mover.

Andy Yanes, 54, McIntyre, supplyman.

Of the 35 rescued, 17 were taken to Indiana Hospital. They are: David Craig, Aultman; George Babich, McIntyre; Clifford Geyer, Saltsburg; John Chorzak, Iselin; George Clipper, Clune; Tony Srgo, Indiana; Peter Sgro, Indiana; Leo Surra, McIntyre; Bruno Lorenzi, McIntyre; James Maleeo, Iselin; Stanley Gryczuk, McIntyre; Leland Stuchell, Blairsville; Mickey Percic, Homer City; Thomas Maydok, McIntyre; Alex Sherbon, Clune; John Levier, Hawthorne, Windburne, Clearfield county. Clarion county; Albert Wysotski,

Hospital attaches said all of the injured men inhaled smoke, some more than others.

While assisting with rescue work, Charles Ramsell, 44, McIntyre, foreman of the mine, inhaled smoke and was taken to Indiana Hospital. His condtion was not regarded as serious.

Mine officials listed the 18 men (Continued on page four)

SIX KILLED IN MINE BLAST

(Continued from Page 1) who walked to safety or were rescued uninjured as follows: Steve Cyga, Aultman; Peter Fedorick, Kent; Theodore Fedorick, Kent; Frank Fulton, Rimersburg; John Gentile, McIntyre; Charles Hilliard, Coy Junction; Francis Kato, Iselin; Daryl Lauerre, Rimersburg; Joe Pavolka, Homer City; Salvatore Virone, Jeannette; Joe Kovalic, Blairsville; Joe Marazik, Louisa, his son; Charles Lucas, McIntyre; Walter Swalga, Iselin; Getty, his son, also of Aultman.

Coal company officials said the blast in all probability was caused of the large drift mine. Between 300 and 400 men were at work when the explosion occurred.

The six men killed were working in two rooms which received the full force of the blast. Rescuers said only one body showed any signs of being hurled through the air by the explosion.

Bodies of at least three of the men were badly burned. The other three men were believed to have been victims of black damp which always follows an explosion.

Dr. Edward L. Fleming, coroner, view the bodies of the victims and said he will await the finding of the mine inspectors and U. S. Bureau of Mines officials before scheduling an inquest.

scene of a rock fall which trapped last December 31. Rescue workuninjured.

A battery of eight State Motor the mine.

Oity, a uaugirout or 2. ningham. She had been employed for a number of years as a bookkeeper for the Sutton-Miller Company of Indiana. Surviving are two sisters and a brother: Mrs. W. Ward Eicher, with whom she lived; Mrs. J. Ord Luther, of Clyde; and Kenneth Cunningham, Indiana, R. D. 3.

Mrs. Mina Vanderhoof

Mrs. Mina Vanderhoof, widow of George E. Vanderhooff, died Friday morning in her home, 912 Water Street. A daughter of John and Julia (Carbaugh) Nolf, she was born Sept. 19, 1865, in Pine Township, near Strongstown. She was the last member of her Kent; Joe Louisa, McIntyre; Ren family. She was a member of St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are three daughters: Dale Getty, Aultman, and Todd Misses Ariel and Irene Vanderhoof, both at home and Mrs. Charlotte Sexton, of Indiana, R. D. 1. A requiem high mass was celeby gas in Section3, North 7 Right brated in St. Bernard's Church Monday morning and interment was in Greenwood cemetery.

Mrs. Annie Zimmerman

Mrs. Annie Zimmerman, widow of Chauncey H. Zimmerman, died June 26 in her home in Blairsville. She was a member of the Baptist Church. Surviving are a daughter and son: Chauncey A. Zimmerman and Miss Hazel A. Zimmerman, both of Blairsville; three brothers, B. H. Weimer, of Leechburg; Stewart R. Weimer, of Canton, O., and William N. Weimer, of Ashtabula, O.

Mrs. Zimmerman was a daughter of A. L. and Mary Jane (Mil-

The Kent No. 2 mine was the Policemen, the sheriff and his deputies together with about a dozen five men for more than 18 hours officers from Indiana county borough, held the huge throng away ers, however, succeeded in reach- from the mouth of the mine. Poing the entombed men, who were lice lauded the excellent cooperation of the townspeople in not be-Leland Stuchell, 24, Blairsville, coming unduly excited and rewho was injuered in Monday's ex- maining at sufficient distance so plosion, was one of the five men as not to slow up the work of the trapped by the rock fall last De- rescue crews, who did excellent work in getting the bodies out of