

FATAL ACCIDENTS, 1942

Underground:

January 7, Ray G. Brown, of Dumont, age 38, married, timberman, employed by the Red Elephant Mine, of Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, went into a chute to clean out the muck. Loose rock rolled down from the sides of chute onto him, causing injuries from which he died January 12. Carelessness of injured and violation of safety rule.

January 9, Albert Van Arsdale, of Silverton, age 34, widower, chute puller, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was pulling chute. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, Frank Pacotti, of Silverton, age 28, single, trammer, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was tramping on third level. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, Claude Pacotti, of Silverton, age 24, single, miner, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was staging up to drill in chute pocket. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, Oscar E. Nelson, of Silverton, age 45, married, miner, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was timbering a raise. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, John Aldrich, of Silverton, age 26, married, trammer, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was cleaning stope. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, Howard M. Atkins, of Silverton, age 37, married, miner, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was staging up to drill in chute pocket. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, Floyd Holston, of Silverton, age 22, married, trammer, employed by Pride of West, Inc., of Silverton, San Juan County, was tramping on third level. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 9, Frank Moser, of Silverton, age 25, single, miner, employed by Pride of West, Inc., Silverton, San Juan County, was timbering in a raise. Surface buildings caught fire and smoke entered mine causing suffocation. Accidental.

January 14, John P. Brownfield, Telluride, age 21, single, miner, employed by the Veta Mines, Inc., Telluride, San Miguel County, was coming down ladder off shift when he apparently slipped and fell to level below. Killed instantly. Carelessness of injured and violation of safety rule.

February 28, George G. Lane, of Boulder, age 24, married, machineman, employed by the Golden Harp Mining and Milling Syndicate, Boulder, Boulder County, had drilled nine holes and loaded same with powder. A V-shaped rock with slips not visible, which could not be detected by sounding, fell from hanging wall and struck Lane. He died from injuries the same day.

March 3, Mark Basta, of Alma, age 45, married, machineman, employed by The London Mines and Milling Company, Alma, Park County, was drilling a round of holes and loaded same with powder and fuse. After spitting four or five holes there was a premature explosion and Basta was found dead on top of bulkhead over manway. Safety devices failed to function.

March 7, Ray Kinder, of Palisade, age 46, married, employed by Federal Reclamation Project Cameo No. 3, Grand Junction, Mesa County, was killed by fall of rock weighing 200 pounds. Unavoidable accident.

March 24, Don Singleton, of Leadville, age 26, married, jiggerboss, employed by the Climax Molybdenum Company, Climax, Lake County, had gone up under a hangup in chute to place a bundle of powder. The hangup came in pinning him against chute and the bundle of powder sticks exploded, killing him. It cannot be definitely stated whether Singleton pulled the spitter string or whether the falling rocks pulled the spitter. Unavoidable accident.

April 2, Frank F. Botts, of Salida, age 32, single, machineman, employed by Kramer Mines, Inc., of Salida, Chaffee County, was mucking out when helper's pick hit a missed right hand lifter, causing an explosion and instant death. Lack of mining experience.

April 2, Bliss De Angeleno, age 21, single, machineman's helper, employed by Kramer Mines, Inc., Salida, Chaffee County, was mucking out when pick hit a missed lifter, causing an explosion and instant death. Lack of mining experience.

April 15, Oscar Leonhardy, of Leadville, age 33, married, loader, employed by Climax Molybdenum Company, Climax, Lake County, was barring rock at the cap and slipped and fell into chute. Large rocks fell on his chest crushing him. Unavoidable accident.

June 18, Harry Ray Palmer, of Minturn, age 35, married, assistant mine shift boss, employed by Empire Zinc Company, of Gilman, Eagle County, was struck by a rock from a loaded hole which exploded prematurely. Unavoidable accident.

July 18, C. A. Heyn, of Ward, age 56, single, copartner on property of Heyn and Mott, of Ward, Boulder County, was barring down when large rock fell on him. Death was instantaneous.

August 17, Arthur James Bush, of Cortez, age 49, married, miner, employed by United States Vanadium Corporation, of Uran, Montrose County, was killed by rock which fell from the side of an open cut stope. Unavoidable accident.

September 3, Walter Corbin, of Minturn, age 42, widower, miner, employed by Empire Zinc Company, of Gilman, Eagle County, was retimbering when the ground over him caved in, knocking away a lagging over him. While trapped fine zinc sand covered him and he suffocated. Unavoidable accident.

September 3, Ralph Ginther, of Eagle, age 20, single, shoveler, employed by Empire Zinc Company, of Gilman, Eagle County, was helping retimbering when the ground over him caved in, knocking away a lagging over him. While trapped fine zinc sand covered him and he suffocated. Unavoidable accident.

September 4, Jim Boyd, of Leadville, age 35, married, jiggerboss, employed by Climax Molybdenum Company, of Climax, Lake County, had placed a stick shot and was starting down raise when a rock fell hitting him in the back, knocking him down raise where his head struck a large rock, killing him. Unavoidable accident.

September 9, William Thomas Carter, of Victor, age 70, married, leaser, employed by United Gold Mines Company, of Cripple Creek, Teller County, was filling tram car when several tons of rock from stope above fell, causing lacerations and internal injuries resulting in death. Death resulted September 14. Unavoidable accident.

November 18, Benton F. Queen, of Telluride, age 27, married, miner, employed by Telluride Mines, Inc., of Telluride, San Miguel County, was drilling when slab from back of stope fell striking him on back of head causing instant death. Unavoidable accident.

December 30, Herbert Hobson, of Silverton, age 49, single, motorman, employed by Shenandoah-Dives Mining Company, of Silverton, San Juan County, was operating trolley locomotive which left rails on curve, pinning him between motor and wall causing injuries which resulted in death January 18, 1943. Accidental.

Shaft:

June 19, John George James, of Cripple Creek, age 50, leaser, employed by the Elkton Company, of Cripple Creek, Teller County, was retimbering when collar of shaft caved in causing him to fall about 35 feet to bulkhead and then slide 35 feet to muck pile. Carelessness of injured and violation of safety rules.

October 8, Clarence Jacobson, of Leadville, age 25, single, cager, employed by Resurrection Mining Company, of Leadville, Lake County, was mucking at bottom of shaft when brakes on hoist slipped, dropping cage on his head and shoulders, crushing him. Failure of company to enforce safety rules and negligence on part of employee in not noticing safety rail under skip.

December 11, Ralph Fish, of Salida, age 21, married, hoistman, employed by Colorado Fluorspar Company, of Salida, Chaffee County, had just finished climbing down ladder in shaft when rock fell on him severing spine. Unavoidable accident.

Surface:

January 8, Leroy J. Rogers, of Cripple Creek, age 32, married, dump leaser, employed by the Elkton Company of Cripple Creek, Teller County, was loading a truck with ore. A frozen crust had formed on the dump and this overhanging crust fell, crushing Rogers. Violation of safety rule.

February 5, Herman Dahlke, of Nucla, age 44, married, hoistman, employed by the United States Vanadium Corporation, of Uravan, Montrose County, was dumping ore from mine into ore bin. Ore did not discharge and the tipped body of car fell back. The car derailed and entire car pinned employee at chest causing injuries from which he died the same day.

April 30, William Snell, of Leadville, age 22, married, whistle-punk, employed by Climax Molybdenum Company, of Climax, Lake County, was checking cars while they were dumping. Door arms broke on one car and car tipped over on him breaking his neck. Unavoidable accident.

September 10, H. W. Busselle, of Victor, age 71, single, dump lessee, employed by Empire Lee Mining Company, of Cripple Creek, Teller County, was cutting through dump when high side gave away and he was suffocated. Violation of safety rules and carelessness of injured.

September 22, Joseph M. Low, of Breckenridge, age 64, married, carpenter, employed by Garvie London Gold Mining Company, of Breckenridge, Summit County, was walking up cat walk when plank broke causing him to fall 12 feet, resulting in injuries which caused his death November 16th.

October 13, George Bruce Manning, of Creede, age 55, married, hoistman, employed by Emperius Mining Company, of Creede, Mineral County, was operating hoist and somehow got caught between cable and drum, crushing him to death instantly. Probably lack of safety device.

December 29, Louis Franchini, of Telluride, age 36, married, crusherman, employed by the Telluride Mines, Inc., of Telluride, San Miguel County, had finished crushing out and stopped crusher but left conveyor belt running, which is independent of crusher. While attempting to remove rock from belt his sleeve caught between belt and pulley drawing in his left shoulder and head and crushing his skull which caused instant death. Unavoidable accident.

Mill:

February 28, Wyatt A. Daniel, of Uravan, age 27, married, mill operator, employed by the United States Vanadium Corporation, of Uravan, Montrose County, caught his clothing on smooth line shaft running at chest height at one side of an elevated platform along which he was walking. Injuries resulted in death.

Quarry:

September 15, J. W. Nixon, of Colorado Springs, age 26, married, truck driver, employed by Thomas & Brown Lime Company,

of Pueblo, Pueblo County, was riding up a steep incline in an empty tram car which gained such speed that the operator was unable to control it. At the top Nixon was thrown out, his head hitting rock face, resulting in death. Violation of safety rules and negligence of fellow workmen.

October 27, Caradoc Davies, of Florence, District Representative of United Mine Workers, age 57, married, went into the quarry of the Colorado Portland Cement Company, Portland, Colorado, to watch the operation of a large steam shovel. An electric motor pushing a train of empty cars approached from the rear. Mr. Davies was struck by the protruding frame of the car and knocked across the truck and two wheels of the car passed over his legs. He died two days later from the effects of the injury. Unavoidable accident so far as the company was concerned.