

Gilmer Nielsen Killed In Coal Mine Blast

Burns And Injuries Claim Life Of Former Resident

Gilmer Nielsen, son of Mrs. James Nielsen, was the first of six casualties, reported from a coal dust explosion at the third east dip of the Independent Coal and Coke Co. operated mine at Kenilworth, Carbon County.

The explosion occurred March 14th, and Mr. Nielsen died that same night in a Price hospital, of burns and injuries.

Sixteen miners were in the crew that suffered from the blast, and four escaped injury, and assisted in the rescue of the victims. Seven were taken to the Price hospital, four to the company hospital at Kenilworth, and one was given emergency treatment and released to his home. The death of other crew members occurred on Thursday and Friday.

The dust blast was set off, it was reported by the mine superintendent, George B. Jackson, when a direct current power line broke, its flash igniting the dust caused by a bounce, which occurred when earth pressure forced the coal to break from a face of the dip. The 12 men, with the four whose clothing was not set afire, fought to save themselves from the flames, which were confined, and prevented from spreading by use of rock dusting, a safety precaution method.

Mr. Nielsen was born June 27, 1909, in Manti, a son of James and Florence E. Anderson Nielsen. At the time of his death, he resided in Helper.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Delma Rostron Nielsen; three children, Gilmer Rigon, Bobby J. and Cora Lou Nielsen, all of Helper; his mother of Gunnison, and three brothers, Melvon and Emil Nielsen, Gunnison; Roldo Nielsen, Long Beach, California, and Alfonzo Nielsen, Salt Lake City.

Funeral services were conducted in Helper, and graveside service at Manti, the place of burial.

At Manti, the Gunnison ward had charge of the rites, with Gilbert Childs, conducting. The prayer was offered by Royal Hansen, and the opening song, "Lay My Head Beneath A Rose," was rendered by Mrs. Newell Childs. Bishop Alma Peterson of Manti, was the speaker, and remarks were offered by Bishop Elmer Nielson of the Gunnison ward, who also dedicated the grave. The closing song, "Going Home," was sung by Gilbert Fjeldsted.