

Investigations Reveal Little To Place Blame For Mine Blast

Bodies Of Twenty-Three Men Taken From Workings; Injured Recovering

Investigations being conducted to determine the cause of the mine explosion at Sunnyside last Wednesday in which twenty-three miners lost their lives, have uncovered little evidence so far to place the blame for the blast.

Apparently the explosion was caused by ignition of methane gas, the force of the concussion destroyed most of the evidence from which a reason could be established, according to S. C. Harvey, state coal mine inspector.

Another hearing is being held today by the state industrial commission. Commissioner R. H. Dalrymple said the state will try to determine if any neglect was involved and if the tragedy indicates need for changes in the state coal mining code.

The United States bureau of mines, the United Mine Workers and the coal company are also conducting investigations of the explosion.

Of the seven men who were injured, four have now been released and the other three are recovering rapidly, according to reports from the Dragerton hospital. The injured were Tony Leger, Edward Edwards, James Coleman, and Martin Dean, re-

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PRICE JR. HIGH GRADUATES 139

Graduation exercises for 139 Price junior high school students who will receive certificates will be held tonight at the Price municipal auditorium, according to B. W. McAllister, principal.

The program is arranged as follows: March of the graduates; school song; prayer, Domenic Bonacci; speech of welcome, David Lindstrom; piano selection, Carrie Eardley; "World Peace and the Students' Part In It," Fae Paulson; selection, duet, V. Lynn Peacock, Parley M. Neeley, Jr.; boys chorus; "Four Great Freedoms Sculptured For the World," Charlene Madsen; girls chorus; presentation of graduates, Principal McAllister; selection, graduates; and benediction, Bernard E. Christensen.

Student supervisors are Mrs. Jean R. Clement and Blaine Thompson. Student body president is David Lindstrom, and the commissioners are Bryan Reid, Agnes Mathis, Eva Trautvein, Rudy Vuksinick, Neil Warren and Maurine Waterman.

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leased. Still hospitalized are Tony Trujillo, John B. Tuiterez and Guadalupe Sandoval.

Up to Wednesday the Utah Fuel company mine has not been operating, it is understood, since the accident. Eighty-seven men were in the workings at the time of the explosion, and twenty-three of these were killed. The work of clearing up debris from the mine tunnels has been going on since last Saturday.

Bodies of twenty-one of the men were taken out of the mine Thursday by 5:00 o'clock p.m., and the bodies of Bud Walton and Orville Stubblefield were recovered later that night. One of the bodies was badly mutilated by the force of the blast. Mr. Walton's body was found off to one side of a different mine entry.

The explosion occurred about 1300 feet underground and about two miles from the mine entrance. At that point destruction was considerable, timbers were charred by the flash that accompanied the blast. Some of the bodies were badly burned, especially about the face and hands.

Although none of the areaways within the mine was completely blocked, piles of debris handicapped rescue crews who were searching for Walton and Stubblefield.

Speedy arrival of rescue crews from the other mines of the county was responsible for saving of the lives. First victims were removed within an hour after the explosion, the injured being taken to the Dragerton hospital.

All of the victims were married with the exception of two men—C. Della Corte and Pedro Gevaldon. Funeral services for the men were conducted during the week.

This was the worst in this county since the explosion in 1924 of the Utah Fuel company mine at Castle Gate, in which 173 men were killed. In 1900, an explosion at Scofield where 200 men died, was the worst in all Utah mining history.