

COAL FATAL

1946 0376

COAL FATALITY
FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
PITTSBURGH COAL COMPANY
BANNING #2 - #04075
FEB. 22, 1946

Homer Young, Andrew Vargo Jr., and Henry C. Garner Sr. were injured in an underground fall of roof accident.

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THREE KILLED IN MINE FALL; FATHER OF ONE VICTIM SEES TRAGEDY

Three men were killed when the roof of the Whitsett mine of the Pittsburgh Coal Company caved in Friday.

The father of one of the victims looked on helplessly as the squeeze suddenly settled and snuffed out their lives.

The dead:
Andrew Vargo, Jr., 28, of Whitsett.

Henry Garner, 52, of Whitsett.
Homer Young, 46, of Wick Haven.

Garner and Young, Negroes, were loaders in the Banning No. 2 (Whitsett) mine while Vargo was a snapper who was working with his father, a motorman.

Young Vargo had gone into the room where the two others were loading coal, preparatory to having a loaded wagon drawn. The roof suddenly gave way and trapped the three victims. Vargo's father, about 20 feet away, watched in horror as the squeeze caught his son and the two other workers.

It was not until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon that the three victims were removed from under the many tons of debris. Garner and Young suffered skull fractures and internal injuries while Vargo's neck was broken.

Garner, married, leaves a son, Henry, Jr., while Vargo, also married, has three children. Young also was married.

The bodies of Garner and Vargo were taken to the funeral parlors of Ira Blair & Sons at Ferrysopolis and Young's remains were removed to a McKeesport funeral home.

FAINT HOPE FOR RESCUE OF 425 IN GERMAN MINE

By United Press.

HERFORD, Germany, Feb. 23.—Rescue work at the Monopole coal mine in the Ruhr was resumed today after the escape of one miner revived some slim hope for lives of 425 men still missing.

The missing miners were counted as dead yesterday, and workmen began sealing the openings of the sprawling mine at Unna, their concrete emplacement, forming a vast tomb for the men trapped by a series of explosions.

But late yesterday a 32-year-old pit electrician, Eno Gronar, was found haggard and half-dead in a tunnel that would have been sealed within a short time.

Officials who had worked for 60 hours without rest decided to renew the rescue effort. The pouring of concrete into the Monopole ceased. Workers again were trying to push through an offshoot shaft which had deep underground tunnels connecting with the main mine.

Admittedly hope was slim. Twice a series of rumbling explosions had shaken the mine. Fire was raging in some of the underground reaches, and many of the tunnels were caving in.

Officials announced that 59 miners were brought out alive, in-

1946 Three killed at Banning No 2



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