

12 Burned By Gas Explosion On Power Shovel

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Sept. 5 — (AP)—

The gas tank of a flaming power shovel exploded on a strip mine project near here today, severely burning 12 miners as they advanced with fire extinguishing bombs to quench the blaze.

Some of the victims were standing 200 feet away when the gasoline and oil fed flames ignited their clothing.

The injured were brought to Adrian hospital here where all were reported in serious condition. Several were not expected to live, hospital officials said.

All available nurses and physicians were called out for emergency duty. Blood plasma, burn salves and surgical dressings were rushed from Pittsburgh and nearby communities.

The men were at work on a strip mine operated by George Yoxthemer at Anita when an apparent short circuit set fire to the power shovel. As the men ran toward the blaze with extinguishers, the flames reached the gas tank, causing it to explode with an impact heard for miles.

A huge cloud of flame-filled smoke boiled out of the stripping pit, showering the men with fiery sparks.