

## Roof Fall Kills Six Miners In West Virginia

Dante, Va., May 21. (U.P.)—Six miners were crushed to death in a cave-in at the No. 2 mine of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation here last night, Mine Dispatcher J. M. Smith said today.

Smith said that five other miners, including the foreman of the crew, escaped with only "scratches" in the cave-in.

The dispatcher said that a "bump" or vibration in the mine caused an estimated 50 tons of coal to come crashing down on the six men. The UMW press bureau in Washington said Smith's report indicated the accident was caused by the collapse of supporting timber in a section of the pit.

Smith said the crash occurred about 8:50 last night in a section of the mine about three miles back from the entrance. It took a rescue party of about 40 men until 1:15 A. M. today to dig out the crushed bodies, he said.

He identified the dead men as Arnold Vickers, Harold Barkes, Oakley Creger, a man whose last name was Rasnick, Troy Phillips, and Duris Artrip.

Foreman Joe Rasnick, father of the Rasnick who was killed, escaped with four other members of the section crew, Smith said. He listed the escaped miners as Woodrow Phillips, Lundy Phillips, Ansel Powers and Marion Hardy, a Negro.

The five men who escaped were some 60 or 75 feet behind the miners who were killed, Smith said. The crew was on its way up into the hard coal mine to begin work on the section, he said.

The dispatcher said there was no explosion. He described the cause of the disaster as a "bump, or a shifting of coal in a deposit."

In mining terminology, a bump is generally attributed to an excessive weight on the roof of a mine passage. Miners say that when the weight on the supporting walls is too great it forces the walls to burst into the passage, causing a "bump."

"Bumps" are more common in hard coal mines than in soft coal mines, Smith said. The Clinchfield No. 2 mine is a hard coal mine.