



GAS POCKET IS IGNITED AT SOUTH WILKES-BARRE

HUGH CAVANAUGH
GEORGE HASSICK

Two mine workers were killed outright and two others were injured this morning in an explosion of gas at South Wilkes-Barre colliery, Glen Alden Coal Company. The blast occurred between 7 and 7:30 o'clock in No. 33 slope of the Abbott vein, first operating level below the surface.

Second Brother To Die In Blast At Same Mine

A grim coincidence in connection with the death of Hugh Cavanaugh in the South Wilkes-Barre mine explains this evening the fact that a brother of the victim met a similar fate in the same operation.

William Cavanaugh, a brother, was at work in the same mine seven years ago when he was killed by an explosion of gas.

Killed:
HUGH CAVANAUGH, 36, of 79 Regent street, Wilkes-Barre; slope engineer.
GEORGE HASSICK, 36, of 77 Ambrosia street, Wilkes-Barre; locomotive engineer.

Injured and admitted to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital:
JOSEPH MCKENROY, 47 of 95 Lee Park avenue, Honesdale Township, mangled suffering from bruises, lacerations and shock.
JOSEPH MACULES, 39, Dallas Fair Ground, locomotive helper; bruised and shocked.

There were approximately 30 men at work in the section where the blast occurred shortly after starting time this morning. Company officials stated that a preliminary investigation convinced them that the blast resulted from a pocket of gas.

Officials Investigated

When reports of the explosion first reached the surface it was feared that the casualty list was heavier. There are approximately 1,000 men employed at the operation and it was not known just how many were in the affected area when the trouble occurred.

Company officials hurried to the scene and all available ambulances were summoned to meet any emergency. Dr. Donald Smith and Dr. Thomas Williams were on the scene shortly after the blast occurred.

while a mine rescue squad operating under the supervision of Roger Howell, safety engineer. Colliery Superintendent William Davis and mine foreman Stanley Leveney went into action immediately.

Henry Dierks, vice president and general manager of Glen Alden, was at the colliery early as were William Everett, general superintendent, and J. L. Kluppel, district superintendent.

Company heads explained there was no fire following the blast which resulted in some property damage but repairs can be made shortly.

WANT AWARD SET ASIDE

Argument Advanced Today By Scranton Lawyers

Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—(AP)—Attorneys for the City of Scranton today asked the State Supreme Court to set aside a \$10,000 award to a 67-year-old widow.

The money was awarded to Mrs. Catherine Conklin of Arden, Pa., on order of the Lackawanna County Common Pleas Court. It was compensation for a broken hip suffered Dec. 27, 1945, when she fell on a snow-covered street in South Scranton.

The high tribunal reserved decision on the city's appeal.

Council argued that the Lackawanna County trial judge erred in not permitting testimony to show she retrieved more and fell from the snow-covered street (Schimpff court) because of the heavy financial burden it would have placed on the city.

The widow's attorney replied the city is required to clear all streets of obstructions whether they be paved or not.

Lazovich Estate

1949 South Wilkes-Barre explosion



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Mine Continues To Work

Workers in No. 33 slope where the explosion occurred, were ordered from the mine but other sections of the operations continued uninterrupted. It was not known how long the slope section might be idle as a result of the explosion.

In spite of the fact that the blast occurred within the city limits at a Glen Alden operation in a densely populated area, news of the tragedy didn't leak out until well on toward 9 o'clock. In the meantime the two injured men were admitted to General Hospital.

Attendants at General Hospital this afternoon reported the condition of Macules as "not good." He is suffering considerably from shock and also from bruises.

McKeown's condition was reported as "fairly good." He received lacerations and bruises but neither he nor his fellow worker was burned to any extent.

The bodies of the two dead men were sent to the Kniffen Funeral Home where they are being held pending further disposition.

Cavanaugh In Navy

Mr. Cavanaugh was born in Wilkes-Barre, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cavanaugh. He attended the public schools and started to work in the mines at the age of 13. At the time of his death he had been a member of the mine grievance committee at South Wilkes-Barre colliery for 12 years.

During World War II he served in the Navy and held the rank of petty officer.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Church, city, and the American Legion.

Surviving are his wife, the former Gertrude Myers of Wilkes-Barre; one sister, Mrs. Anna Russ, Columbus avenue, city, and three brothers, Edward of Parrish street, Thomas of Hill street, and Leonard of Columbus avenue, all of this city.

One of Nine Children

Mr. Hassick was born in Wilkes-Barre and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hassick. He attended city schools and began work in the mines at the age of 16. He was a member of St. Mary's Greek Rite Catholic Church, North Main street, city.

Surviving besides his parents are five sisters and three brothers: Mrs. George Yateko, Chilwick street, Miners Mills; Mrs. Richard Morris, Sharpe street, Kingston; Mrs. Leo Yancavage, Monahan Court, Ashley; Mrs. Catherine Bogert, North Welles avenue, Kingston; Mrs. Andrew Kelter, Bradford street, city; Andrew, Dana street, city, Michael and John, both at home.

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