



WHERE MEN ARE TRAPPED

Diagram of the main shafts of the Lark lead mine where five men are trapped in the smoke-filled, smoldering tunnels. Dotted-line areas show where the trapped men are believed to be located. The diagram shows only the main tunnels involved, but none of the hundreds of branch shafts of the mine.

LARK MINE FIRE

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entirely the men are off in one of the countless shafts or side tunnels.

ALL OF LARK

The missing miners, all of Lark, were identified as Clyde Augustson, 41, general mine foreman; Robert G. Meyerhoffer, 38, electrician; Bryon G. Thomas, 46, assistant master mechanic; Horace Martin Seal, 58, hoist operator, and his son-in-law, Leland Neilsen, 38, pump operator.

Seal and Neilsen disappeared first. The three others were swallowed up in the silent blackness in a rescue attempt. Two other men, Irv Ainsworth, Sandy and Jesse Sandstrom, Lark, went in for the rescue too, but escaped out a side tunnel when the smoke proved too tough.

A "wall of smoke and carbon monoxide gas" is throttling rescue attempts Monday, B. E. Grant, assistant to the western manager of the company's property, said.

Rescuers were turned back by carbon monoxide gas when they had fought their way to within a few feet of the Lark shaft, main mine shaft where the men are believed trapped.

FACE PROBLEM

"We don't know how we'll get to 'em," he said.

Officials set up a 250-horsepower blower outside the mine entrance and welded sections of a conduit far back into the main Mascotte tunnel. Another blower was operating 300 feet back in the tunnel.

Smoke was being blown in swirling clouds out the newly-dug Bingham tunnel which connects with the Lark diggings.

The Bingham tunnel is being sunk by Utah Construction Company. Only six weeks ago the company narrowly averted a major loss of life when 20 tons of dynamite blew up near the tunnel entrance.

Many of the homes where

tragedy hit Sunday still had windows boarded up from that explosion.

Rescue workers Monday were wearing oxygen masks and helmets, which enabled them to stay underground in the smoke about an hour.

Even so, two men were overcome Sunday night. Both recovered.

Rescue workers had come from as far away as the Hiawatha Mine in Carbon County.

W. C. Page, vice president and general manager of the company's western operations, Monday said "We're making good progress."

However, it may be days before the mine can be fully explored.

"We think the best chance is that they're in the main Lark shaft," Mr. Page declared. "We also suspect that's where the fire might be."

400 MILES

The Lark shaft goes down 1000 feet at the end of the main Mascotte tunnel, 7720 feet back under the Ogurri Mountains. With its 400 miles of diggings, the mine is the West's biggest underground operation.

Compressed air is piped throughout the mine, Mr. Page said. There are outlet valves at various points. All miners are taught the location of those valves.

"We are hoping the men have found their way to one of the valves," Mr. Page said.

The two men went on shift at 11 p.m. Saturday. They have not been heard from since. When the fire was discovered at 4 a.m., officials tried to tele-

phone them to close a water door at the 1000-foot level of the Lark shaft.

DON'T ANSWER

The call was never answered. Meyerhoffer, Thomas and Augustson, groped into the smoke-filled tunnel to try and contact the other two men. They also have not been heard from.

"We aren't going to lose any more rescue workers if I can help it," Mr. Page declared Monday. "Every man has been instructed to proceed with the utmost caution. We're taking no chances."

He said rescuers, working in teams of five men, had gone into many of the mine's outside entrances without success.

The mine's regular electric power system has been out of order, apparently since the fire broke out.

Officials shut off the mine's water supply to prevent flooding and possible drowning of the men.

Mr. Page said it was "quite likely" an electric short somewhere underground had set fire to mine timbers piled up in one of the tunnels.

"There's no evidence of any heat. It looks like the fire itself is just smoldering, with a lot of smoke," he said.

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