

# First Aid Unit Saves One Miner

Reliance Workers Strike 'Pocket' of Gas in Pillar Hole

A 35-year-old Shamokin miner was killed late yesterday and another local man narrowly escaped the same fate when a "pocket" of gas erupted while the two were working at the face of a pillar hole in the Reliance Colliery mine.

The miner whose life was snuffed out by the deadly mine gas was Stephen Venarich, Sr., of North Rock street. In Giovanni Hospital suffering as a result of his exposure to nitrogen dioxide, one of the South Diamond dust. Amato's condition today was reported by hospital attendants to be satisfactory.

Officials of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company reported the accident occurred at 4:30 yesterday afternoon. Venarich, a miner, and Amato were working together when the "pocket" of methane gas was released.

Amato was the first of the two mine workers to be brought to the surface. A colliery first aid team used artificial respiration to partially revive the young man. Efforts of the first aid team to fully revive Amato continued until he was being taken to an ambulance to the hospital.

Venarich, when taken to the mine, was pronounced dead by Dr. A. R. Benda, Mount Carmel, who had been summoned to the colliery shortly after the accident was reported. Rescue workers and first aid team members used a pump-out in an effort to revive Venarich. The Shamokin mine was employed as Reliance Colliery for 10 years.

Dr. Sidney Maloney, Northampton County coroner, was notified of the accident and directed that Venarich's body be taken to Christa Funeral Home, Kutztown.

A native of Austria, Stephen Venarich was born in 1915. He came to the United States in 1930 and settled in Shamokin. His first wife was married to Mrs. Susan Pflieger. He was a member of Ukrainian Catholic Church of Transfiguration.

Besides the widow, survivors include: Four daughters, Mrs. Anthony Blasi, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Paul Yucha, Shamokin; Mrs. Joseph Porelli, Orphans; and Mrs. Betty, at home. Three sons, Stephen, Jr., with the United States Army in Japan; Walter, New Brunswick, N. J.; and Joseph, at home, and also, Mrs. Constantine Bura, Calmar, N. Y., one step-son, Peter Venarich, Danville, and an grandson.

Funeral services will be held Monday morning in the home, beginning at 8:30, with continued services, beginning at 9:00 in the Church of the Transfiguration. Burial will be in the parish cemetery. Viewing will be in the family residence from tomorrow evening until time of the service.

## 1950 Nicholas Amato rescued from Reliance Colliery



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## P. & R. First Aid Meet Will Be Held At Lakewood Park

Annual first aid contest of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company will be held Saturday, August 12, at Lakewood Park.

Edward G. Fox, general manager of the company, will have charge of the contests, scheduled to begin at 10:00. Osborne Morgan will be chief judge and will instruct team captains before the meet.

A highlight of the program will be presentation of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association medal of honor to Michael Dobson, fire boss at Reliance Colliery. The presentation will be made by J. J. Forbes, chief of the health and safety division of the United States Bureau of Mines, and secretary of the association.

Dobson will receive the award for "knowingly risking his life by entering a pitching pillar hole filled with gas to successfully rescue one worker and after several attempts, failed to rescue another in the Reliance Colliery on February 1, 1950. Dobson is a father of 10 children. The miner rescued alive from the pillar hole is a resident of Shamokin, as was the miner who lost his life.

## 1950 Nicholas Amato rescued from Reliance Colliery



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