

# 1952 Carpentertown Mine Explosion



# Investigate Cause Of Mine Tragedy At Carpentertown

#### STATEMENT IS ISSUED BY UMW

Mt. Pleasant, Pa., Feb. 4 - (UP) - The United Mine Workers today blamed the death of six miners in a Carpentertown mine explosion on a combination of gas, improperly shielded electrical equipment and poor ventilation.

"This disaster is just another tragic example of why we need strong federal mine safety regulation," the UMW said in an official statement released yesterday by Justin McCarthy, UMW public relations man.

"Operators of the Carpentertown mine, which was classified as non-gaseous by state inspectors, were warned repeatedly of unsafe conditions by federal officials," the statement said.

UMW officials said the gas was touched off by sparks from an electric driven car which was not properly shielded. They said this Wine was in violation of the federal mine safety code.

The union compared the blast, which occurred Saturday, with that at West Frankfort, Ill., which killed 119 men last Dec. 21.

The union charged there was "vivid evidence" of poor ventilation, the presence of explosive gas Carpentertown Coal and Coke Co., and the use of non-permissable plans for an early inquest were electrical equipment in the com- announced today by County Corpany's No. 2 mine.

The charge was made following a day-long investigation of the will be conducted "in the near tushattered pit by union, federal ture" in collaboration with sta's and state mine inspectors. They and federal mine inspectors. resumed their investigation today. Check said the miners, all of

tives here to question six survivors shock. Some were burned. of the blast.

mine operators ignored three fed- announced today, eral warnings last year that the mine was "dangerous."

secretary, told a Congressional the St. Benedict Catholic Church, committee in Washington "that Marguerite, and its Holy Name this state didn't need federal mine inspection, that the state could take care of its own business." (Continued on Page 10 Col. 6)

Preparing To

#### Coroner Plans Early Inquest

As families prepared to bury siz miners who died Saturday morning in a blast at the No. 2 mine of the oner Joseph R. Check.

His office advised that the probe

Meanwhile, Union president John whom were members of UMWA L. Lewis has ordered representa- Local 7750, died primarily from

Funeral arrangements for the Frank Hughes, president of the six victims, who are survived by union's District Three, charged the a total of 34 children, were also

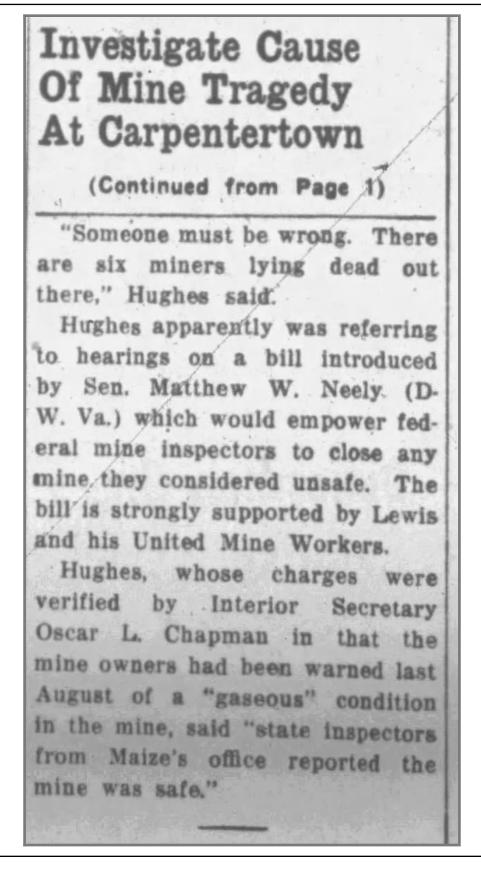
John Joseph Magrey

A veteran of World War I, John Hughes said he heard that Rich- Joseph Magrey, 55, Latrobe R. D. ard Maize, Pennsylvania mines 3, (Marguerite) was a member of Society.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Labuda Magrey, and the following children: Edward, Josanh John and Genevieve, all at

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**Newspapers** 



## 1952 Carpentertown Mine Explosion

#### Preparing To Bury Dead Of Mine Disaster Coroner Plans Early Inquest As families prepared to bury siz miners who died Saturday morning in a blast at the No. 2 mine of the Carpentertown Coal and Coke Co., plans for an early inquest were announced today by County Coroner Joseph R. Check. His office advised that the probe will be conducted "in the near tuture" in collaboration with state and federal mine inspectors Check said the miners, all of whom were members of UMWA Local 7750, died primarily from shock. Some were burned. Funeral arrangements for the six victims, who are survived by a total of 34 children, were also announced today. John Joseph Magrey A veteran of World War I, John Joseph Magrey, 55, Latrobe R. D. 3. (Marguerite) was a member of the St. Benedict Catholic Church, Marguerite, and its Holy Name Society. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Labuda Magrey, and the following children: Edward, Joseph, John and Genevieve, all at home, and Mrs. Marie Reeping. Jeannette. Also surviving are three grandchildren and two brothers, Andrew, Marguerite, and Michael, Grindstone. Friends will be received at his late home. Funeral services with mass will be held at 9 a. m. Tuesday in St. Benedict's Catholie Church, Marguerite, with Rev. Jordan Burick officiating. Interment will be made in the St. Vincent cemetery. Michael J. Klementic Michael J. Klementic, 40, Greensburg R. D. 5, (Mutual), a member of the St. Florian Catholic Church, United, and the Mutual Volunteer Fire Department, is survived by the following: His mother, Mrs. Susan Kle-(Continued on Page 10 Col. 3)

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#### Preparing To Bury Dead Of Mine Disaster

mentic, his wife, Mrs. Anna Naievanko Kiementic, and the following children: Thereas, Mary Ann. Susan and Carol Lee, all at home. Also surviving are the following sisters: Mrs. Mary Valcik, Gates; Mrs. Julia Kovach, Greensburg R. D. & Mrs. Anna Ward, Res R. D. I: Mrs. Margaret Ludvick and Miss Catherine Kiementic, both of catherine Kiementic, both of

Greensburg R. D. 8.
Friends will be received at his
late home in Mutual, Funeral services with mass will be rt 9 s. m.
Wednesday In the St. Florian
Catholic Church with Hev. Joseph
Kovalik Officiating, followed by interment in the St. Florian cemetery at Trager.

Lawrence W. Bollinger, Greens burg R. D. 5, near Pleasant Unity

sabeth Wallace Bollinger, und charles of Glowing children. Mrs. Blanche McMahen, Latrobe R. D. 3; Mrs. Midred Horman, Freedom R. D.; Mrs. Edith Tinkey, Mt. Pleasant Bollinger, both at home. Also sarviving are his father. Also sarviving are his father. George H. Bollinger, Deepry, sight prothers and sisters: Harvey, Mrs. and the following brothers and sisters: Harvey, Braitwellief B. D.; Mrs. Margaret Bullwirthelle B. D.; Mrs. Margaret

Pavilk. Creighton and Mrs. Olive Kopper, Derry. Priends will be received until 10 p. m. today at the James P. Gaut Funeral Home, Pleasant Unity, where funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Tuesday with Rev. J. F. Hockenberry officiating.

Joseph Smartnick
A motorman in the mine, Joseph
Smartnick, 57, Foxtown, near
Youngwood, was born in Austria
March 17, 1894, and came to America at the age of 10.

He was an overseas veteran of World War I and a member of the American Legion Post 318, Greensburg, and the Holy Cross Catholic Church Vonesmooth

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Catherine Porgack Smartnick, and the following children: Mrs. Agnes Cholock, Hunker R. D. 1; Mrs. Catherine Nalepa, South Greensburg; Mrs. Elizabeth Pertucci. Youngwood: Mrs. Helen Chappo, Norvelt; and Florence, John, Edward and Steve Smartnick, all at home.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren and two brothers, James, Greensburg R. D. 5, and Anthony, St. Clair Hill, Greensburg.

St. Clair Hill, Greenburg.

Friends are being received at his
late home. Funeral services will
be held at 10 a. m. Wednesday at
the Holy Cross Catholic Church,
Youngwood, with Fr. Gilbert
Straub, O.S.B., officiating.

Military services will be conductat the grave in the Youngwood

Charles Hamborsky Charles Hamborsky, 54, F ie, husband of Mary Hambo as born in Czechoslovakia

ville, husband of Mary Hamborsky, was born in Czechoslovakia Jan. 14, 1896, and came to the United States in 1912, settling in this vicinity.

He was a member of St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Connellaville, the Polish Club of Everson, and the Independent Citizens Slovak Club of Connellaville.

where he did his own farming. In addition to his wife, he is survived by the following children: Joseph, Cleveland, O.; Charles Jr., Wt. Piesawai, William and Paul, hoth hi home. Mrs. Veronica Skoloda and, Mrs. Mary Basalle, both of Connelisville; Mrs. Paaline Spiller, Washington, D. C., and Dorothy, at home.

Also surviving are eight grat children and one sister, Mrs. Ma

Friends will be received at the hone in Pennsville until Wednes day morning when prayer service will be conducted there at 8.2 m. Mass will be sung at 9 a.m in the 8t. John's Roman Catholic Church. Connellaville. with Ret Louis Doychak officiating.

John's cemetery, Brookvale.

Fred G. Yothers

Fred G. Yothers

mine as a hauler,
Surviving are his wife, Mrs.
Mary Yothers, and two daughters,
Lavarne and Freda, and a foster

Also surviving are the followin brothers and sisters: George an Martin, both of Acme: Harry Brimkerton: Mrs. Fred Shaffer Mrs. Minnie Shaffer and Mrs. Ly

Friends are being received of the home in Tarra. Funeral serlices will be held at 2:30 p. in Tuesday in the Zion Luthera Church, Ruffedale, with his paste

Interment will be made in Mt. Pleasant cometers