

## 'Disturbance' Traps 22 in Virginia Mine

Bishop, Va. (AP) — Rescuers today found the bodies of 8 of 22 coal miners trapped by an explosion in the Pocahontas Fuel Co.'s Bishop mine No. 34.

Bishop, Va. (AP) — An unidentified disturbance today trapped 22 miners in a section of the Pocahontas Fuel Co.'s Bishop Mine No. 34. The extent of the damage or the condition of the men could not be determined immediately.

The trouble disrupted communications to the section.

Mine officials said 166 other men in the mine when trouble occurred at 8:20 a.m. walked out. None suffered any ill effects.

**Roland C. Luther, vice president of the company, at a press conference told newsmen it was "a local disturbance" and occurred in the "dayheading section."**

"I prefer not to use the word explosion," said Luther, "because we don't know what it was."

He said, however, the disturbance apparently was not very powerful because it was hardly felt at the elevator shaft a little more than a mile from the scene.

Luther said the ventilation system in the mine areas reached by rescuers had not been damaged, indicating the disturbance was not of too great a magnitude.

He said this gave hopes the trapped men could be reached alive.

Of the 166 miners who escaped, those working closest to the disturbance sealed themselves off but later were removed.

**Luther said the disturbance occurred in the same section but a little further down from the Feb. 4, 1957, explosion scene. Thirty-seven men died in that disaster.**

As four rescue squads arrived, several hundred persons, including families of the trapped men and their colleagues who had escaped, milled about the mine entrance.

The rescue teams went down into the mine in relays of two, with about 15 men working at a time.