

### 4 Roundup Coal Miners Killed

ROUNDUP, Mont. — Tons of sandstone crashed from a mine roof in central Montana Tuesday killing four coal miners and narrowly missing at least six others.

Coroner John Rie said the miners were killed outright. Searchers labored for about five hours to extricate the bodies from where they were buried, nearly three-quarters of a mile inside the horizontal tunnel.

Ed Nicholson, company manager, said the mishap occurred shortly before 3 p. m. at the Montana Queen Mine of the Mountain States Mining Co. He said it was the first fatal accident at the mine since the company took over operations in 1954.

He identified the dead as Martin Mezmarich, 54; Frank Nose, 45; Jim Molnar, 48; and George Larson, about 50, all of Roundup.

The victims were members of a crew of about 10 men who were working as a team in the mine — one of two sharing in a recently reawarded contract to furnish coal for the Atomic Energy Commission's plant at Hanford, Wash. The other is the Roundup Mining Co. No. 3 mine.

Jack Boyle of Roundup, company president, narrowly escaped injury during the rockfall as did these miners: Adolph Paulus, Mike Gulch, Dwight Harmon, and Lynn Miller, all of Roundup.

Paulus was the first to notice the roof caving. He yelled to the others, "Look out." Boyle was hit by a piece of flying rock, but was not hurt.

The coroner said there would be an inquest sometime this week. Loren Newman, state coal mine inspector from Red Lodge, and Edward L. Christensen of Billings, federal coal mine inspector, are investigating cause of the accident.

Nicholson said the rockfall did not entirely block the 8½-foot high tunnel. An undetermined number of miners deeper in the tunnel were able to get out, he said.

The mine, 30 miles east of Roundup, employs about 40 men, most of whom were on the job at the time of the rockfall, Nicholson said.

Cause of the rock fall had not been established immediately. Nicholson said there was no panic.

Larson is survived by the widow. Molnar was unmarried.

Mezmarich's survivors include the widow, two daughters and one son.

Nose is survived by the widow and one child.

Nose, Molnar and Larson were veterans of World War II.

Montana's worst coal mine disaster claimed 74 lives Feb. 27, 1943, at Bear Creek. They were trapped in an explosion.

## 1958 Montana Queen mine cavein kills four



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Tue, Mar 5, 2024