

Rescue Team Nears 18 Trapped Miners

Believe All Are Still Alive Behind Barricade

FORMER LOCAL MAN IS KILLED NEAR LELAND

Melvin M. McMeen, 24, Ex-Marine, Dies Instantly In Car-Truck Crash

An inquest was scheduled at 5 p. m., today in Leland to inquire into the traffic death Saturday of a 24-year-old ex-Marine and former Streator resident, La Salle county's seventh fatality of 1960.

Melvin M. McMeen, of De Kalb, who resided in Streator until a week ago, was killed at 9:30 p. m., Saturday, when his automobile side-swiped a pickup truck on U.S. Highway 34, three quarters of a mile east of Leland.

State Trooper Raymond Smith reported McMeen, who was released from the U.S. Marine Corps Feb. 16, was driving west when his car crossed the center line while rounding a slight curve.

Charles S. Merritt, 36, of Aurora, driver of the truck, told Trooper Smith he saw the McMeen vehicle coming toward him and swerved his truck onto the shoulder of the road to avoid a collision.

McMeen's car struck the truck at the corner of the box body which was filled with plumbing fittings and tools.

The impact tore the heavy steel body from the truck's frame. The truck box came to rest 25 feet from the point of impact as the rear axle which was also torn from the truck body by the force of the crash.

McMeen's car careened across the road and stopped in the ditch.

Although the driver apparently died instantly, workmen labored for 45 minutes to remove the body from the wreckage. The car and truck were demolished.

Merritt escaped serious injury. McMeen's body was taken to the Thorsen funeral home at Leland and later was released to the Win-terrrow mortuary at Streator.

Rites Wednesday
Funeral services for McMeen will be held Wednesday at 2 p. m. from the Winterrowd chapel with burial occurring in the Riverview cemetery.

The son of Herman and Marian (Hawk) McMeen, the deceased was born Aug. 31, 1935, at Rutland, he never married.

He had lived at Flanagan 14 years and Kirkland three years prior to enlisting in the Marines in which he served three years.

Surviving are the following brothers and sisters: Wayne Everett McMeen of Lincoln; Lloyd Alex of Streator; Ray Le Roy ofushing, Okla.; Glenn Gilbert of

LOGAN, W. Va. (AP)—Workmen striving to reach 18 trapped miners had a new approach today to where the men are believed holed up, and the rescue chief said, "We're at the critical stage now."

Crawford L. Wilson, state mine director, said a new fresh air line had been set up and converged with the first one.

"These lines of approach are certain and safely supported," said Wilson as he spoke to newsmen after a conference with officials of Island Creek Coal Co.

Nearing Trapped Men

One rescue team had reached almost within shouting distance—150 feet of their target deep behind the tunnel which has been clogged with a smoldering fire and slate fall since last Tuesday morning. But rescuers have had to return for fresh oxygen supplies time and again.

Fate of the men who were trapped six days ago remains as shrouded as the smoke and gas-clogged air. However, rescuers believe they had time to barricade themselves off with heavy canvas.

Wilson, veteran mine official who was celebrating his 66th birthday today, walked briskly and was in good spirits as he arrived from an overnight stay in Holden.

He explained that work teams have fought their way through tunnels 7 and 8 and the honey-comb passageways between them. The new fresh air passage through these tunnels has linked with the main rescue attempt up tunnel 4.

The entombed men are believed in an area off 7 and 8, which also can be reached from the No. 4 tunnel.

Encounter Many Obstacles

Earlier, one workman described the tremendous obstacles in the way of the rescuers.

"That smoke is so thick down there you can stick out your finger and punch a hole in it," said Elmer Layne, 37-year-old rescue team captain just up from the black depths.

Trapped Last Tuesday
A rock fall and fire trapped the miners last Tuesday morning in the Island Creek Coal Co. No. 22 mine at nearby Holden, about 12 miles from the Kentucky border.

His face gray with dust, his white miner's hat and khaki shirt and pants streaked with black, the Bartley, W. Va., safety engineer told newsmen early today some of the obstacles rescuers have battled.

You have to crawl on your stomach about 150-200 feet to by-pass the still smoldering fire in the main tunnel.

At another point, you have to wade through knee-deep water for about 150 feet.

Island Creek President Raymond E. Salvati, who used to dig coal himself, began talking.

"There's something wrong with our ventilation system," he said grimly. "We can't get the air to do what it's supposed to do."

Someone asked the inevitable question. Are the men alive?

"I don't think there is any question about it," said Salvati. "Those men are still alive and we are going to get them out."

REPORT NEAR VIOLENCE BY FINCH JURORS

Seven Men, Five Women Deliberated To Bitter, Exhausted Deadlock

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wrangling by jurors in the Finch murder trial almost erupted into violence as the seven women and five men deliberated to a bitter, exhausting deadlock.

This was the report today of two members of the panel—one a woman who said that at one point a male juror threatened to throw her out of a window of the locked jury room.

Jury Dismissed Saturday
The jury was dismissed Saturday after failing to agree whether Dr. R. Bernard Finch, 42, and his mistress, Carole Tregoff, 23, had plotted and killed with a bullet-in-the-back the doctor's estranged wife, Barbara Jean Finch.

The wealthy surgeon and his onetime receptionist broke into sobs when the jurors announced they were deadlocked. They face another trial. A date will be set Thursday.

While all seemed outwardly serene during the eight days of deliberations, reports of shouts, insults and near-violence came from two jurors—Louis Werner and Genevieve Lang.

Threatened Woman Juror
Mrs. Lang, 34, a secretary, said a male juror turned the locked jury room into a panle Friday when he shouted at her: "I'm going to pick you up and throw you out the window."

She said the juror, whom she did not identify, started to pick up the jury table—he started to take off his coat—I was scared.

"One woman ran for the buzzer and buzzed for the bailiffs. Another screamed hysterically at the door. It was terrifying to realize we were locked in that way."

After bailiffs quieted the dispute, Mrs. Lang said: "I want off the jury." However, she stayed on the panel and the next day they announced the deadlock—10 to 2 to convict the balding, surgeon of second-degree murder and 8-4 to acquit his pretty mistress.

Two Jurors Held Out
Werner, 66, retired sales manager, identified the two male



DISAPPOINTED—With head bowed, Carole Tregoff cries softly after hearing that jury was unable to reach a verdict in murder trial of she and Dr. Bernard Finch in Los Angeles. The judge dismissed the jury and scheduled a hearing for the betting of a new date for trial. Carole's attorney said she was "very disappointed and terribly upset." (NEA Telephoto).

Flu Causes Khrushchev To Postpone French Trip

BULLETIN

MOSCOW (AP) — March 23 has been agreed upon as the new date for Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to visit France, the Soviet news agency Tass announced today. The visit will continue until April 2.

MOSCOW (AP)—Nikita Khrushchev is expected to be laid up the rest of the week with influenza, which forced a last-minute postponement of his tour of France.

Diplomats here scoffed at the idea that the Soviet premier, who was scheduled to fly to Paris Tuesday, might be pleading "an illness of convenience." They said he was eagerly looking forward to pre-summit talks with French President Charles de Gaulle.

There were some Western suggestions that Khrushchev had decided it would not be discreet to follow up his recent Southeast Asian tour, in which he denounced colonialism, with a formal visit to a country many Asians and Africans consider the worst colonial offender.

If the Kremlin had ever worried about this, diplomats here said, Khrushchev would never have arranged the French tour in the first place.

Will Fix New Date

The Communist party newspaper Pravda said this morning a new date for Khrushchev's visit

SEEK MENTALLY ILL WIFE WHO KILLED HUSBAND

Find Body Of Bludgeoned Urbana Air Force ROTC Instructor In Motel

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP) —

Police today sought the wife of an Air Force ROTC instructor who was found bludgeoned to death hours after he picked her up from a mental hospital so she could spend her birthday with him.

The body of S. Sgt. Garrit Kuemper, 30, an instructor at the University of Illinois in Urbana, was discovered Sunday in a motel near Springfield.

Leaves Suicide Note

His wife, Beverly Joan, 27, had vanished Sunday, leaving behind a note saying that she intended to drown herself in the Illinois River. However the Kuempers' car was found abandoned several hours later in a snowdrift near Collinsville, 85 miles south of