

Three Died

'Black Damp' Survivor In 'Good' Condition

Richard Cappell, 20, of Lavelle, who miraculously escaped death Saturday afternoon after being trapped in an accumulation of gas in an independent mine operation near Lavelle, was reported in "good" condition today at Ashland Hospital.

Three other co-workers were killed by the gas, known among miners as "black damp." They are William Metzinger and Frank Schaffer 30, both of Locustdale, and Clayton Maurer, 62 of Mowry.

Donald Metzinger, 32, owner of the mining operation, was stricken during the rescue operations and rushed to the Ashland State Hospital and his condition was also described as "good" by hospital authorities.

The victims were trapped in the mine shortly after 8:30 a.m. Saturday and the last of the four was

removed about 12:30 p.m.

They were rushed to the Ashland Hospital where the three victims were pronounced dead by Dr. Carl F. Reichwein, of Ashland.

During rescue operations, State Mine Inspectors at the scene, issued a call for additional oxygen equipment to Shenandoah and Frackville. Officials of the Shenandoah Fire Department dispatched the emergency equipment and William Guers, fire chief. G. Wilbur Knott and Connie Reese, went to the mine to assist with the rescue work.

Trapped In Drift

The four men were trapped in a drift in the side of the mountain near Lavelle. This type of mining operation has the appearance of a long tunnel cut into the mountain.

An electric locomotive, known

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1962 Richard Cappell rescued from black damp in coal hole



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'Black Damp' Survivor 'Good'

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to miners as a "buggy" was used by the men to haul the cars of coal from the drift.

During the morning, Schaffer went in on the motor and a short time later, the motor returned unattended. It was believed that Schaffer became ill and attempted to ride back out on the motor but fell from the buggy. Maurer and Cappell went in to investigate, followed by Metzinger. When all four failed to come out of the drift an emergency call was sent-out for help.

An Ashland ambulance was summoned and a crew accompanied by Police Chief John Snyder and State Mine Inspector Robert Schneider rushed to the scene. State Mine Inspector John Brophy was also summoned.

Within a short time a large crowd assembled in the area and Trooper Stan Povillatis of the Mahanoy City detail, Butler Twp. Police Chief Matt Wonn set up barricades to keep the curious from hampering the work of the rescue crews. The Independent Miners Rescue Truck from Shamokin provided equipment for the rescue teams.

Gloria Boser and Ruth Krapf, of Lavelle, set up and maintained emergency quarters to serve coffee and sandwiches to the workers.

Background

Charles C. Maurer, of Mowry, was a son of the late Charles B. and Mary Evans Maurer and was a member of F. & A. M. 24, Ashland.

A miner by occupation, he also served as a Fire Warden.

His survivors include, his wife, the former Cora Overkott; two children, Mrs. Thomas Madden, at home, and Clayton J., of Ashland; two grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Irene Ernest Mt. Carmel and Mrs. Leah Smith Mowry.

Funeral services will take place Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. from the Kull Funeral Home, Ashland. Viewing Tuesday evening. Burial will be in Sunnyside Cemetery, Lavelle, with Miss Ruth Schwank, of Christ Independent Church, Mowry, in charge.

Frank A. Schaffer

Frank A. Schaffer, of Locust Dale, was born Feb. 3, 1921, a son of William and Eleanor Burmesler Schaffer, and followed mining as his occupation.

A veteran of the Korean War, he was a member of Grace Evangelical Church, Locustdale and the

Fire Company of that community.

Survivors include a son, Glen, of York; and the following brothers and sisters, Mrs. Robert Morbaw, Pottsville; Mrs. Earl Doiz, Ashland; Mrs. Francis Reismiller, Newark, Del.; Mrs. John Metzinger, Gloucester, N.J.; Ronald, Pottsville; Kenneth and Wayne, at home.

Funeral services will be tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. from the Kull Funeral Home, Ashland. Viewing Monday evening. Interment in Citizens Cemetery, Lavelle, with Rev. Robert H. Samuels, in charge.

William Metzinger

The funeral of William (Whitey) Metzinger, of Locustdale, will take place on Wednesday from the McDonald Funeral Home, 403 West Main street, Girardville.

The first of three gas victims removed from an independent mine near Lavelle on Saturday, he was a son of Mrs. Elizabeth Metzinger and the late Peter Metzinger.

Formerly of Aristes, he was a member of the Grace Evangelical Congregational Church at Locustdale. He was a veteran of World War II.

His wife is the former Margaret Corrigan, native of Connetquot.

In addition to his wife, he leaves three sons, William, 13, Thomas, 10 and Mark, 1; his mother, at Ashland; two brothers, Peter and Donald, both of Lavelle; two sisters, Mrs. James Neunetter, of Fountain Springs and Mrs. Michael Poteva, of Shenandoah.

Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, in the McDonald Funeral Home, 403 West Main street, Girardville. Funeral services will be held in the Grace Evangelical Congregational Church at Locustdale where Rev. H. Robert Samuels will be in charge. Viewing will begin Monday evening and continue until burial.

Interment will be in St. Joseph's Cemetery at Fountain Springs. M. J. McDonald and Son have charge.

Doctors Back at Work But May Strike Again

ROME (UPI)—Striking Rome hospital doctors returned to work Sunday but threatened another walkout within a week unless they get government action on their demands for more pay, a higher retirement age and other benefits.

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