

Official Probe of Robena Mine Explosion Will Begin on Monday

Chamber to Seek State Aid To Obtain Hospital Physician

The difficulties involved in providing a resident physician at Connellsville State General Hospital were explained to a Chamber of Commerce group by Dr. Domes S. Newill Tuesday night at Pleasant Valley Country Club. Thirty-three members of the Chamber's Industrial Division voted unanimously to petition the State Department of Welfare for

an increase in the yearly allocation to pay a house doctor, after hearing Newill speak. The action was taken by the group after Dr. Newill, in answer to a question, said that the Chamber can help to solve one phase of the resident problem by requesting the budget adjustment. Considerable discussion followed Dr. Newill's opening remarks in

which he pointed out the requirements to qualify a doctor for a "house assignment" in a state hospital. Interns are not used at the local hospital, because advanced training is not available locally, due to the distance from medical schools and because the local hospital is not a 300-bed hospital, the doctor said.

Foreign doctors, although some are well-qualified, have to pass the state medical examination before being admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, he added.

Experienced doctors prefer to set up their own practice or accept higher salaries from the military services and private hospitals, the speaker explained.

Semi-retired doctors, as a rule, do not want a full-time residency when they reach retirement age, Dr. Newill pointed out.

Dr. Ralph Stone explained present emergency service available at the local hospital and questioned the Chamber's "concern" on the issue of a resident physician.

Division Chairman James M. Hall and Chamber Manager E. J. Touchet told Dr. Stone that the Chamber included "Help to obtain a resident physician for Connellsville Hospital" in its work program after community leaders had indicated a desire for one.

at a community-wide workshop in June, sponsored by the Chamber. The two Chamber officials pointed out that a group of about 100 civic leaders and club representatives had voted the physician project among the top ten community improvements needed in Connellsville at the summer workshop session.

After Dr. Stone's remarks on current medical care available at the hospital and at local doctors' offices, Charles E. Daniels said that perhaps the community needs to be reminded about the various phases of medical care provided by the local hospital and local doctors. Daniels said that better public relations is needed to explain the current medical services available locally and that the Chamber, press and radio can be of assistance to tell the story and avoid misleading information from being repeated and accepted as facts by many local residents. "Hearsay" can sometimes do much harm if the facts are not publicly announced by those who know, Daniels said.

Mayor John W. Collins said the discussion had brought up some good points and that those present would be more mindful of the problems local doctors face, after hearing of the difficulties involved. He praised local doctors

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TWO ACCIDENT CASES TREATED

Albert Vishnensky, 57, of 405 East Fayette St., was admitted to Connellsville State General Hospital at 10:40 a.m. Tuesday after injuring his left wrist in a fall on the sidewalk at Jefferson and Fayette Sts. He is in "satisfactory" condition.

Mrs. Marlene Welling, 24, of Vanderhill, was treated at 12:05 a.m. Tuesday for a right knee injury suffered in a car-truck collision at Anchor Hocking Glass Corp. She was taken to the hospital in South Connellsville firemen's ambulance.

CARMICHAELS, Pa. (UPI) — Lewis Evans, state secretary of mines, said today the official investigation of the tragic explosion which claimed the lives of 37 men at U.S. Steel Corp.'s Robena No. 3 mine would get underway Monday.

Evans named a five-man committee to take charge of the investigation. It includes four mining inspectors and an electrical inspector. The first phase of the probe will be a physical inspection of the mine, followed by public hearings.

No coal has been dug since the explosion last Thursday. Federal and state mining officials are on guard at the mine to make sure no physical evidence is destroyed.

All Bodies Removed
The last of the bodies were brought to the surface Tuesday. Funeral services will be held throughout the week. No mass burial was planned.

Bishop William G. Connare of the Greensburg, Pa., Roman Catholic diocese will officiate at a memorial Mass Saturday at All Saints Church in Masontown, Pa. Bishop Connare also said he would make visits to the families of some of the miners.

Gov. David L. Lawrence Tuesday ordered the lowering of the Pennsylvania pennant to half-mast until sundown Friday in memory of the dead.

"This is a tragic and heart-rending thing," the governor said. "The hearts of all Americans and all Pennsylvanians go out to the families and friends of the men who lost their lives."

Lewis B. Worthington, president of U.S. Steel, expressed "the deepest, most heartfelt sympathy" to the families.

"The past five days have been a period of intense anxiety, then deep sorrow for the families of the 37 miners who died in the explosion at Robena mine," Worthington said.

"The hundreds of people engaged in rescue efforts, all of us at U.S. Steel, and thousands of others throughout the country have shared these feelings."

A Pennsylvania State University meteorologist, Dr. Charles L. Hodler, said a sudden change in the weather last week may have triggered the violent blast. He said a sharp drop in the barometric pressure at the mine site Thursday could have affected the amount of gas flow inside the diggings.

Scores of miners were at work Tuesday clearing debris from the mine in preparation for the investigations.

The public hearings will be held to examine evidence turned up in the inspection.

Since shortly after the explosion all of the Robena mine sections have been under a federal order prohibiting mining.

John Ozanich, president of Robena Local No. 6321, U.M.W.A., said he will call a special meeting of the local before work is resumed in the mine.

Worthington also said: "The rescue teams which worked so diligently and heroically, and the hundreds who supported them, both above and below ground, have earned the respect and gratitude of everyone."

"Their unflinching courage has been an inspiration throughout these anxious days. I know that all of them join all of us in U.S. Steel in expressing the deepest, most heartfelt sympathy to the miners' families."

Ralph C. Beerbower, general superintendent of the Frick Coal Division, and Jesse Cook, former general superintendent who now is executive head of all coal operations for U.S. Steel, remained at the mine throughout the search. Walter Cook of Uniontown and other top mine authorities also were at the disaster scene throughout the period.

Western Penn Takes Brunt of Arctic Air From North Plains

The western and northwestern portions of Pennsylvania took the brunt of cold arctic air blowing in from the Northern Plains states today.

The mercury plunged to five below zero at Greater Pittsburgh Airport, surpassing the two-above record set in 1960 for this date. The Weather Bureau predicted six below overnight, which would be five degrees colder than the record low of Dec. 13 recorded in 1960.

In northwestern Pennsylvania, Ridgway reported an unofficial reading of 15 below. Dubois reported five below, and it was one degree warmer in Bradford.

Erie residents breathed a sigh of relief when a predicted four to eight inches of new snow forecast for Tuesday overnight never materialized. The temperature stood at 11 degrees. However, public and parochial schools remained closed for the second day.

Roads Are Open
Erie Public Works Director Frank Rice reported that all main roads were open and secondary roads were passable. He said much of the snow, which reached a depth of 11 inches Tuesday, had been cleared with the help of hired bulldozers and graders. He said the leasing of extra equipment cost \$7,500 a day.

George Braybender Jr., 43, son of an Erie councilman, was stricken with a fatal heart attack Tuesday while shoveling snow.

No significant moderation was expected in the weather for at least the next few days.

Temperatures were expected to remain well below the freezing mark through the middle 20s southeast and 10 to 20 degrees in other areas.

Mostly sunny skies were expected over southeastern and east central sections, with variable cloudiness and a few snow flurries forecast for western and higher terrain of central.

Cold Continues
Thursday is expected to be mostly sunny and continued cold over all areas with afternoon readings 15 to 20 degrees western and central and 25 to 30 degrees over extreme eastern sections.

The temperature was 15 degrees in the Harrisburg area today, and Philadelphia reported a range of 10 to 15.

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission officials reported a temperature range from five below to 15

above along the toll road. The roadway was clear and dry with the exception of light snow from Gateway on the Ohio line to Allegheny tunnel.

To See Stars Stargazer Launching Tomorrow

HOLLIDIAN AFB, N.M. (UPI) — The countdown began today for Thursday's scheduled launching of Project Stargazer — a balloon ascent to give man his first clear look at the stars.

If weather permits, the manned balloon will make the highest astronomical research ascension in history.

A storm blanketing eastern New Mexico and west Texas forced at least a 24-hour delay of the Air Force balloon flight, originally planned for dawn today.

The telescope-topped aluminum gondola with a civilian astronomer and an Air Force captain inside will go 17 miles above the southern New Mexico desert and drift eastward while the two men get the first clear look at the stars in the history of astronomy.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek, project director from Northwestern University, said it would be "the greatest breakthrough in astronomy since Galileo."

Capt. Joseph W. Kittinger Jr., who more than two years ago made history with a high-altitude parachute jump from a balloon 102,800 feet above Holloman, and William C. White, a civilian technician at the naval ordnance Texas station at China Lake, Calif., will make the flight in the gondola carried by a reinforced plastic balloon inflated with helium.

White and Kittinger will ride the balloon up to its peak altitude about two hours after launch, and at the end of 24 hours will bring it down by releasing the helium.

Presents Credentials.
MOSCOW (UPI)—Chinese Communist Ambassador Pan Tzuili presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Tuesday, the Soviet news agency Tass reported.