

Mine Explosion Kills Nine Miners

Senator Moss Expresses Distress Over Explosion

"I am deeply distressed by the news of the mine accident in Carbon County. My heart goes out to the families of the men who died in this needless and tragic way. We must assure greater safety in our coal mines. It is not right to ask men to risk their lives each day when they go down into the mines. President Kennedy realized this. After the two big recent mine disasters in Pennsylvania and W. Virginia, he had a bill drafted which tightens safety laws. I am a co-sponsor of this bill and will get it moving in the Senate. Hearings have already been held on it in the House.

"Early newspaper reports indicate that the Utah men may have run into a pocket of methane gas. The U.S. Bureau of Mines is now studying methods by which methane gas may be drawn out ahead of the time the coal is mined. This study is not progressing as fast as I feel it should, and if it can be moved along more rapidly with more money, I will try to get it.

"I am will to take any practical steps to get more safety for our men who work in our mines. This tragic loss should spur us to redoubled efforts to assure safety in our mines.

FRANK E. MOSS,
United States Senator"

BRIEF OBITUARIES OF NINE MINE VICTIMS

Following are brief obituaries of the nine victims of Monday's tragic mine blast:

Mike Ardohain, Price. Born July 14, 1925. No children. Wife Melba..

Victor Fossat, Helper. Born Nov. 22, 1916. Two dependent children, one married daughter, Darlene. Wife, Celia.

Andrew Juvan, Spring Glen. Born Oct. 21, 1921. Two daughters, Shirley and Frances, both at home. Wife, LaVon.

Hcino Liin, Price. Born April 10, 1925. One dependent son. Theodore H. Wife Leah M.

Archie Larsen, Price. Born April 29, 1923. One daughter and three sons, Dale, Kenneth and Allan, all home. Wife, Alice.

Ben Montoya, Helper. Born June 24, 1923. Three daughters, Rebecca Ann, Patricia Maria & Benino Rae. Wife, Bernice.

Gerald Nielson, Born July 18, 1920. Four children at home, Betty, Judy, Linda, Randal. Wife, Irene..

John Senechal Jr. Kenilworth Born Nov. 28, 1931. Three dependent daughters, Ann Elizabeth, Lorene Renea and Ginger Marie. Wife, Merlene.

Ben B. Valdez, Helper. Born Aug. 10, 1924. No children. Is divorced.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR NINE MINE VICTIMS

BEN MONTOYA and Ben B. VALDEZ. Joint Rosary Thursday 7:30 p.m. Fausett-Etzel Mortuary. Joint Requiem Masses for the two men Friday at 10:30 a.m. St. Anthony's Church in Helper. Burial, Mt. View Cemetery, Helper.

ARCHIE LARSEN. Services Friday at 2 p.m. in Wellington First Ward LDS Chapel. Burial in Price City Cemetery under direction of Fausett-Etzel Mort.

VICTOR FOSSAT. Funeral services Thursday at 2 p.m. in Masonic Temple, Price. Burial at Mt View Cemetery under the direction of Mitchell's.

JOHN SENECHAL JR. Requiem Mass Thursday at 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony's. Burial in Price Cemetery by Mitchell's Funeral Home.

HEINO LIIN. Services Thursday at 2 p.m. Mitchell Funeral Chapel. Burial in Price City Cemetery.

ANDY JUVAN. Services Friday at 2 p.m. at Mitchell Funeral Chapel. Burial in Price City Cemetery..

MIKE ARDOHAIN. Rosary on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Requiem Mass Friday at 9:30 a.m. at Notre Dame Church, Price. The burial will be in Price Cemetery

GERALD NIELSON. Services Friday at 1 p.m. in Fairview Ninth LDS Ward Chapel. Burial in Fairview Cemetery.

— MEN KILLED —

VICTOR FOSSAT—47
Helper

BEN MONTOYA—40
Helper

BEN VALDEZ—39
Helper

GERALD NIELSEN—43
Helper

ARCHIE LARSEN—40
Helper

ANDY JUVAN—42
Spring Glen

JOHN SENECHAL Jr.—32
Kenilworth

MIKE ARDOHAIN—38
Price

HEINO LIIN—38
Price

Shortly before noon Monday, a violent explosion raked the west working of Carbon Fuel Co. No. 2 coal mine in Hardscrabble Canyon, killing nine miners, injuring one miner, and trapping nine other men who were working in the east workings of the mine.

Unofficial investigation indicates that methane gas and a coal dust accumulation could have caused the deadly blast.

The nine miners working in the east drift of the mine walked out without any injury a few minutes after dust and smoke had subsided enough to allow them to see where they were going.

The one injured miner, Jesus Nunez of Price, was about 2400 feet from the explosion center, and was thrown about 200 feet by the concussion of the blast, but walked to the mine entrance and was taken to the Carbon hospital by Helper's Chief of Police, Joe Myers.

All of the dead men were in a 1000 square foot area and according to reports were singed but not badly burned. Four of them were lying beside a large mining machine; three were beside a shuttle car; one was between the miner and shuttle car and another body was near the entrance to the west parting.

James Diamanti, president and owner of the mine, who worked diligently along-side of rescue team, said during one

HELPER LDS WARD BISHOPRIC EXTENDS GREETINGS TO ALL

The Helper Ward Bishopric extends greetings to all for an enjoyable and an inspirational Christmas season.

"We hear again the familiar strains of carols known since childhood and thrill anew to stories of goodness and peace on earth

"May we always—not only at this time—but every day of our lives—remember Him and that which He taught us."

Helper Ward Bishopric

James Diamanti, president and owner of the mine, who worked diligently along-side of rescue team, said during one of his brief rest times: "It looks as though the men fell right where they were working. It is difficult to sit here and tell you how sorry we are. We have never had anything so tragic happen in my lifetime. I have nothing but sorrow and regret for the wives, children and others left behind because of this tragic occurrence."

Rescue teams from Kaiser, Geneva Steel Coal mines in the East Carbon area and crews of safety men from Independent Coal & Coke, were forced to wear oxygen masks because of the carbon monoxide gas which poured through the west area of the mine after the blast.

Clair Self, Kaiser safety engineer, one of the first into the mines said it was his opinion the blast was caused by gas. There was no "roof fall" nor any fire when it happened.

The conveyor belt and frame used to transport coal out of the workings was completely wrecked by the blast.

The bodies of the men were located in midafternoon by the rescue team led by John Peparakis, Kaiser general manager for operations.

Bodies of the miners were brought out on haulage cars after the air was cleared enough to allow safe entry. The first body was brought out about 6:10 p.m.

The explosion came without apparent warning and was not heard by most of the workers in other parts of the mine.

Marion Gonzales a train operator working in the east drifts said he did not hear the blast. "All of a sudden there was a tremendous cloud of smoke. I felt a big rush of air, but I did not hear any explosion!"

The explosion was heard at the entrance of the mine by outside workers. It was accompanied by heavy white smoke and rock dust billowing out of the mine mouth.

Chris Diamanti, the other owner of the mine, and the underground manager, said he had been working in the blast area all morning and had gone to the east drift about 20 minutes before the explosion.