

# Three Of Them In Heroic, But Fatal Rescue Try

DORA — Five miners died, three of them in a heroic but fatal rescue effort, when their continuous mining machine drilled into a pocket of deadly "black damp" near this Jefferson County village last night.

Two other members of a seven-man crew survived.

Federal and state mining inspectors as well as Jefferson County authorities are untangling details of the mine tragedy today.

## Indict Ex-NuMine Man In Texas

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)—Frederick Peter Semanovich was indicted for murder Wednesday in the death of Jill Suzanne Haslett, found beaten and choked in her apartment May 22.

Police investigators told the Dallas County grand jury that Miss Haslett, 18, and the 23-year-old former Pennsylvanian from Armstrong County argued after a movie date.

A friend of the pretty bank messenger and amateur folk singer told police he went to the apartment May 22 but Miss Haslett did not answer his knock. He said he heard a noise and later saw a man, carrying clothes, walk from the apartment.

James Webb, Jr., 25, said he went by the apartment later in the day and found the door open. He told police he found the girl dead.

Webb said he had met Semanovich and later led police to him.

## Deaths

Obituaries on Page 4

DAVIS, James M., 68, of Creekside R.D.

MANNERBERG, Miss Evelyn A., 66, of Glen Campbell

MINEGHIN, William J. (Meneghin), 57, of Jeannette

WIDEMIRE, Thomas Edward, 55, of 1780 Rt. 298 S., Indiana

YOUNT, Israel Peter, 61, of Shelecta R.D. 1

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"We are proud to introduce to the area the use of underground wiring, mercury vapor street lighting and dusk to dawn electric eye controlled lighting for parking and walk areas," said the project owners.



It occurred at the Doverspike Bros. operations, about one and one-half miles east of Dora and 15 miles west of Punxsutawney.

Victims of asphyxiation were: John Kramer, 33, and Sam Gaul, 39, both of Punxsutawney R.D. 3; Robert White, 47, Punxsutawney R.D. 1; C. Hilton Neiswonger, 27, Mayport R.D. 2, and Ronald Moore, about 25, Reynoldsville R.D.

Escaping without apparent injury were James Ishman of the Brookville area, and Orien Anthony, 39, New Bethlehem.

First reports indicate the crew, manning a continuous miner, cut into an abandoned working, striking the lethal "black damp" — a miner's term for air without oxygen.

Gaul and Moore were apparently overcome instantly.

The other five crew members fled the scene successfully.

But three — Kramer, Neiswonger and White — reportedly decided to return to the area to rescue their buddies. They were overcome.

Ishman, in the meantime, ran for help while Anthony, according to first reports, waited outside the mine.

Carl Doverspike, one of the mine owners, said the crew struck the "black damp" about 8:30 p.m. last night.

Recovery of the bodies was delayed until about 4 a.m. today while mine workers, inspectors and officials set up ventilating operations.

Mine officials said the mishap occurred about 4,700 feet from the mine opening.

The operation is known as Doverspike's Dora No. 2 mine, one of two operations in the immediate area owned by James and Carl Doverspike.

About 65 miners are employed at the mine. Nineteen of the employees, working in three crews, were in the mine last night.

"It's quite a tragedy. Nothing else can be said," Carl Doverspike, the co-owner, told the Gazette this morning.

Recovery of the bodies could not be made immediately because of the dreaded "black damp."

Rescue workers set up ventilating operations and pumped oxygen into the area in order to reach the fatal area.

Dr. Robert L. Shaffer, Jefferson County coroner, was called to the scene when the bodies were brought out of the mine.

The victims were removed to Punxsutawney by the Exposito Ambulance Service.

Heading the investigation today is T. E. Jones, a deputy secretary of mines of Ebensburg.

Preliminary reports indicate Moore was single while White is survived by his wife and two children, Neiswonger by his wife and two children, Gaul by his wife and eight children and Kramer by his wife and three children.

The Doverspike mine is completely automated with continuous miners and an all-conveyor belt featuring the operation.

The tragedy marks the first fatality for the Doverspike brothers in their 14 years of operation in the Dora area.