

**AT DEKOVEN MINE**

# Explosion Friday Kills Three Miners

The cause of an explosion which killed three miners and critically injured a fourth early Friday morning at DeKoven No. 6 mine of Pittsburg-Midway Coal Company near Sturgis had not been announced Tuesday by mining authorities.

An official statement Friday said the 3 a.m. blast was the result of a "methane gas explosion" in the area where the four miners were working.

Dead at the scene were two Nortonville miners, James Norvell, 45, and Herschel Brasher, 43, and Joseph G. Hagan, 24, of Waverly.

James Murrell, 41, Route 3, Morganfield, was listed in critical condition at the Sturgis Community Hospital. He was said to have burns over more than 50 percent of his body.

Mine Manager T.H. Strunk, Morganfield, said 35 men were working at the mine — located six miles west of Sturgis — but the other 31 were not in the immediate area of the explosion

which occurred about 9,000 feet from the mine opening.

Kentucky Department of Mines officials are investigating the disaster.

Norvell was a shuttle car operator, Brasher a joy operator, Hagan a mechanic, and Murrell a greaser.

The crew was said to have been loading rock when the explosion occurred.

Several miners living in the Dawson Springs community work at the mine.

Funeral services were conducted for Norvell Monday afternoon at the Bandy Funeral Home in Nortonville.

He was born June 10, 1922, and was a veteran of World War II.

Surviving is the widow, two daughters, a son, two grandchildren, mother and two sisters.

Last rites were conducted for Brasher at the Nortonville Holiness Church Sunday afternoon.

Brasher was born May 26, 1927, and was also a veteran of World War II.

He is survived by his wife, four sons, a daughter, four grandchildren, parents, nine brothers, a sister and two half-sisters.

## Contact Representative Will Be Here Monday

H.S. Miles, contact representative of the Kentucky Dis-