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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIVITY

M/NM FATAL

John L. Marty
Louis F. Koerner
Gerald D. Newton

Sept.	Cause	st. of body	nature
18	1602	03	04

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

REPORT OF MULTIPLE FATAL ASPHYXIATION ACCIDENT
SILVER EAGLE MINES, INCORPORATED
RICE, STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

3 FATALS
copy

May 15, 1970

By

By K. U. Russell
Mining Engineer

RECEIVED

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METAL AND NONMETAL MINE SAFETY
WESTERN DISTRICT

Allen D. Look
District Manager

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Originating Office
7009 Federal Office Building
Seattle, Washington 98104
L. H. McGuire
Subdistrict Manager

INTRODUCTION

This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to clause (1) of Section 4 of the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act (80 Stat. 772).

Reference numbers preceding recommendations identify mine safety standards published in the Federal Register, Vol. 34, No. 145, Thursday, July 31, 1969, and Federal Register, Vol. 35, No. 38, Wednesday, February 25, 1970 and reference numbers in parentheses identify proposed standards published in the Federal Register Vol. 34, No. 11, Thursday, January 16, 1969, Part II. Mandatory standards are identified by (M) after the reference number.

John L. Marty, age 79, Louis F. Koerner, age 58, and Gerald D. Newton, age 39, were asphyxiated at approximately 2:30 p.m. May 15, 1970.

John L. Marty survived by his widow, was the property owner, and vice-president of the company. He reportedly had varied mining experience and had worked in this mine intermittently during his lifetime. He lived on a ranch near the mine.

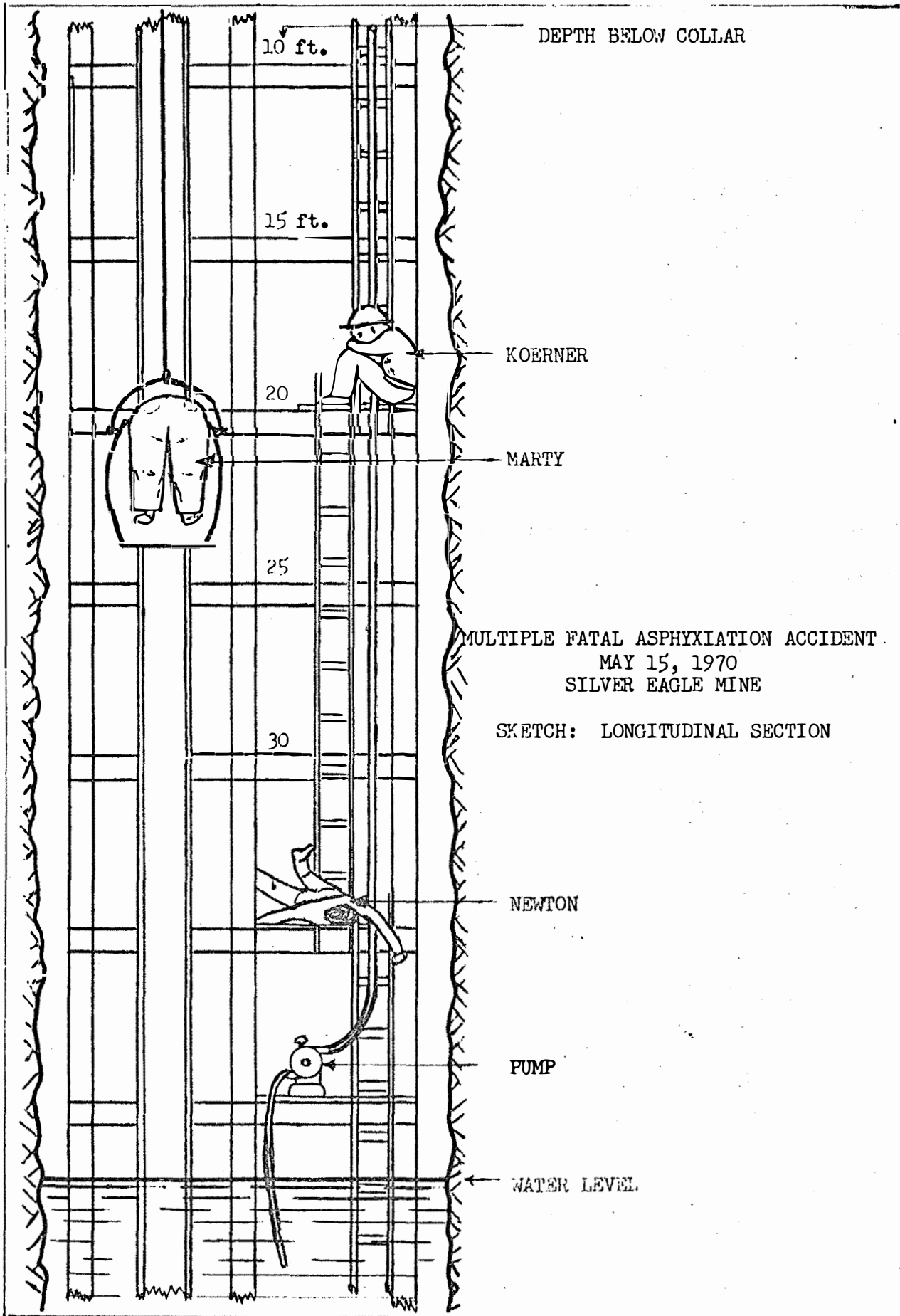
Louis F. Koerner, Marty's brother-in-law, is survived by his widow and had no previous mining experience. His usual occupation was logging and he also lived on a ranch near the mine. He had worked in the mine only 2 days.

Gerald D. Newton is survived by his widow and 4 dependent children. His usual occupation was carpentry and this was his first day of work at this mine.

The Seattle subdistrict office first learned of the accident from a radio news broadcast. Information in this report was obtained by visiting the scene of the accident and conferring with persons involved in the recovery of the bodies. There were no witnesses to the accident.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Silver Eagle mine, a silver lead producer had been idle for several years and was in the process of being reopened. The mine is located approximately 6 miles northeast of Rice, in Pleasant Valley, Stevens County, Washington.



DEPTH BELOW COLLAR

10 ft.

15 ft.

20

25

30

KOERNER

MARTY

MULTIPLE FATAL ASPHYXIATION ACCIDENT.
MAY 15, 1970
SILVER EAGLE MINE

SKETCH: LONGITUDINAL SECTION

NEWTON

PUMP

WATER LEVEL.

Mine officials were:

Charles Schultz, President
John Marty, Vice President (deceased)
Victor V. Wakefield, Secretary Treasurer

The company mailing address is 1505 Fourth Avenue W., Spokane, Washington.

Those participating in the investigation were: A. E. Holter, Stevens County Sheriff, Earl Wilcox, Stevens County Deputy Sheriff, and Pete Gregerson, who participated in the recovery of the bodies of the victims.

United States Bureau of Mines

Warren E. Yenter, mineral industries safety officer and Homer E. Trussell, mining engineer, under the general direction of K. U. Russell, mining engineer.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

The victims were using a gasoline-engine driven pump to dewater the nearly vertical 268-foot-deep, 2-compartment, timbered shaft of the Silver Eagle mine. The pump was set on a platform approximately 40 feet below the collar of the shaft on the manway side. New ladders with offset landings had been installed at 35 and 20-foot depths.

The pump had been previously removed before the investigators arrived, but a 2-inch plastic discharge hose extended from above the pump platform to 20 or 30 feet distance away from the shaft collar. A small, open-bail-type bucket, powered by a single drum gasoline-engine driven hoist was used to convey material in the shaft.

Participants in the recovery of the bodies reported that when Marty (victim) did not return home when expected, his wife went to the mine to investigate. Not finding anyone or receiving an answer to her calls she went immediately for help. Neighbors and Steven County law officials arrived soon after but were required to call the Colville Fire Department for self-contained breathing apparatus due to gasoline vapors and carbon monoxide in the shaft.

Marty's body was in the bucket 20 feet below the shaft collar and showed injuries from falling. Newton (victim) was lying on the ladder landing, 35 feet below the shaft collar and he also showed evidence of having fallen. Koerner (victim) was in a sitting position on the ladder platform as if resting. All victims were dead when recovered.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

The direct cause of this accident was using gasoline-engine driven equipment underground in violation of Federal and State regulations prohibiting the use of gasoline and gasoline engines underground. While not recommended, failure to pipe exhaust gases outside of the shaft and provide positive mechanical ventilation in the shaft were contributory causes of this accident.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Compliance with the following may prevent future accidents of a similar nature.

57.4-52 (M) Gasoline shall not be taken, stored, or used underground except in permissible flame safety lamps.

(57.6-12) (M) Internal combustion engines other than Bureau of Mines approved diesels shall not be used underground and such approved diesels shall be operated in an approved manner and maintained in approved condition.

The following recommendation has no bearing on the accident but should be complied with. •

58.3 (a) Accidents in the mineral industry resulting in a death should be reported immediately by the quickest means to nearest Bureau of Mines, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety Office.

/s/ K. U. Russell

K. U. Russell
Mining Engineer

Approved by:

L. H. McGuire

L. H. McGuire
Subdistrict Manager

1970 0496

M/NM FATAL

M/NM FATALITY
SILVER
STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

SILVER EAGLE MINES, INC. (SHAFT & SLOPE)
MAY 15, 1970

Louis F. Koerner, John L. Marty, Gerald D. Newton were fatally injured by asphyxiated from a gasoline-engine driven pump.

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