

# Gas Blast Kills 13 In Tennessee Mine

PALMER, Tenn. (UPI) — Thirteen miners working 3 miles deep in a Dogwood Flats Mountain coal mine were killed in an explosion apparently caused by methane gas.

Yesterday's tragedy brought the death toll to 24 in Appalachian mining disasters during the past week.

It was Tennessee's worst mining tragedy in 70 years.

Teams with oxygen respirators dug frantically through the debris in the shaft for six hours to rescue the 13 men, but they apparently had been killed instantly by the blast.

Investigators today entered the mine shaft seeking to find the source of the methane that spawned the disaster.

Yesterday, William B. Allison, president of Grundy Mining Co., a subsidiary of Tennessee Consolidat-

ed Coal Mining Co., waited until all of the relatives of the victims were gathered in a lunchroom of the mine headquarters building before breaking the news.

The blast was so powerful it blew out the headlights of trucks parked 100 feet from the mine entrance, but 30 other miners in another shaft of Grundy's No. 21 mine, located about 30 miles northwest of Chattanooga, were uninjured.

Woody Duncan, director of the Tennessee Division of Mining, said the blast was "possibly a methane gas explosion."

Mine disasters in West Virginia and Kentucky had already killed 11 men since last Thursday.

In Topmost, Ky., the bodies of eight miners were removed earlier yesterday from the Adkins Coal Co. mine No. 18. There were strong indications that the explosion that collapsed the shaft Monday may have been caused by dynamite.

Last Thursday, three men were killed and a fourth critically injured in a massive roof collapse at an Elk River Sewell Co. mine in Bergoo, W.Va. Two other miners were rescued unharmed.

## Ms. Madoff Gets 'Docked' On Absence