



BRENT RICHARD IHLER
... dies in blast



TED O. ROBERTSON
... mine operator killed



RICHARD E. COX
... mine blast fatal

Emery County Mine Explosion

3 Utahns Die In Blast

By **ROBERT MULLINS**
Deseret News Price Bureau

ORANGEVILLE, Emery County — Two 12-year-old boys and a father of six children were killed instantly Wednesday afternoon in a violent coal-dust explosion at a small coal mine near here.

KILLED:

Ted Otto Robertson, 33, mine operator, Orangeville.

Richard Earl Cox, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward Cox, Orangeville.

Brent Richard Ihler, 12, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ihler, Orangeville.

The terrific explosion occurred about 3:45 p.m. at the small mine owned and operated by Mr. Robertson, located about 10 miles west of Orangeville in Cottonwood Canyon.

According to Sheriff Don B. Kofford, who investigated, the explosion apparently occurred as Mr. Robertson was attempting to blast through a wall of rock separating his mine and one

owned by his father, Earl Robertson.

The younger Mr. Robertson had just set off two dynamite charges when the explosion occurred. The second charge apparently ignited fine coal dust caused by the first blast.

Force of the explosion was so great a 1,500 pound horse grazing near the mine entrance was thrown 200 yards and killed instantly.

The two boys had been hunting in the area with new .22 caliber rifles they had received on Christmas, and had dropped in at the mine to visit with the Cox boy's uncle, Ted Robertson. They were with the mine operator when the explosion occurred.

Tense Calm Marks

Investigation Follows

Uncle Returns

Uncle Returns

Mr. Cox had been hunting with the boys but had returned to Orangeville to get lunch for the three. It was while he was gone that the blast occurred.

The elder Mr. Robertson, who was working in his nearby mine rushed from the shaft after the explosion in time to see huge clouds of dust settling from his son's property. He made several futile attempts to enter the mine, but was blocked by the heavy dust.

Entrance was finally gained by Mr. Robertson and other rescuers about 6:30 p.m. The three bodies were found in the same area, about 250 feet from the mine entrance. All three victims apparently had been killed by the concussion.

State and federal mine inspectors were on the scene Wednesday night, attempting to determine exact cause of the blast. Their investigation was continuing Thursday.

Carbon Native

Ted Otto Robertson was born Jan. 23, 1923, in Latuda, Carbon County, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Robertson. He married Ruth Barney Dec. 13, 1946.

A veteran of World War II, he served with the 1st and 7th Armies in the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge.

Survivors include his parents.

See BLAST on Page A-7

BLAST KILLS THREE

Continued from First Page

his widow, and six children, Dennis, 7, Robyn, 6, Earlene, 5, Karen, 4, Gayle, 3, and David, 1. Richard Brent Ihler was born

Plant Explosion Kills 1, Hurts 13

NEWNAN, GA. (UP). — A smelter in an aluminum extrusion plant exploded here Thursday, killing one person and injuring 13 others, several of them critically.

Company officials said three other workers who were re-

Sept. 10, 1944, at Huntington, a son of Richard and Faun Ihler. He was a student in the 7th grade of the Orangeville elementary school.

Survivors include his parents, a brother, Gregory, 9, two sisters, Debra, 5, and Denice, 2; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Allen, Huntington, and Mrs. Orpha Ihler, Salt Lake City, and a great-grandmother, Mrs. Minnie Stilson, Orangeville.

Richard Earl Cox was born Feb. 25, 1944, at Orangeville, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward Cox. He was also a 7th grader in the Orangeville school.

Survivors include his parents, a sister, Vicki, 14, and two brothers, Dan, 11, and Wilford, 10.

Deseret News and Salt Lake Telegram
December 27, 1956