

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 Orangeville.

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 instantly. Mr. Robertson was attempting Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward Cox, to blast through a wall of rock separating his mine and one

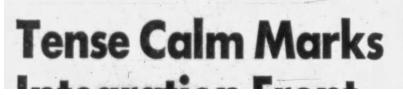
Brent Richard Ihler, 12, son owned by his father, Earl Robertson.

> 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

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.

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## **Uncle Returns**

Mr. Cox had been hunting i with the boys but had returned a to Orangeville to get lunch for 1 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

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<b>BLAST KILLS</b>	5 THREE
Continued from First Page	Sept. 10, 1944, at Huntington, a
his widow, and six children,	son of Richard and Faun Ihler,
Dennis, 7, Robyn, 6, Earlene, 5,	He was a student in the 7th
Karen, 4, Gayle, 3, and David, 1.	grade of the Orangeville ele-
Richard Brent Ihler was born	mentary school.
Plant Explosion	Survivors include his parents,
	a brother, Gregory, 9, two sis-
	ters, Debra, 5, and Denice, 2;
rium explosion	grandparents, Mr. and Mrs.
Ville ( Heads ()	Edgar Allen, Huntington, and
Kills 1, Hurts 13	Mrs. Orpha Ihler, Salt. Lake
	City, and a great-grandmother,
NEWNAN, GA. (UP) - A	Mrs. Minnie Stilson, Orangeville,
smelter in an aluminum extru-	Richard Earl Cox was born
sion plant exploded here Thurs-	Feb. 25, 1944, at Orangeville, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard
day, killing one person and in-	Ward Cox. He was also a 7th
juring 13 others, several of them	grader in the Orangeville school,
critically.	Survivors include his parents,
Company officials said three	a sister, Vicki, 14, and two broth- ers, Dan, 11, and Wilford, 10.
other workers who were re-	and and an and whitera, 10.

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