

MINE EXPLOSION ENTOMBS 135

**Workmen All Believed to
Have Perished.**

RESCUERS WITHOUT HOPE

**Among Victims Are Forty-five White
Men and Ninety Negroes—Father and
Two Sons Perish—Child Toilers
Killed—Mail Carrier Outside Mine
Expires in Burst of Flames.**

Palos, Ala., May 6.—Heroic efforts are today being made to recover the bodies of the 135 miners entombed in mine No. 3 of the Palos Coal and Coke company, twenty miles from Birmingham, of the 135 victims of the disaster forty-five were white and ninety were negroes.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by gas and dust. It happened at a time when employees were not supposed to be blasting in the mines.

The explosion was of such terrific force that Samuel Goolsby, a justice of the peace and rural free delivery carrier, walking on a railroad track 200 yards from the mouth of the mine, was instantly killed, his body being burned almost to a crisp. The country for miles around was shaken by the explosion.

Messages to Birmingham and other towns in the region soon started rescuing parties to the scene. A. D. Lightner, general agent of the Frisco road, got a special train together and with a number of physicians, mine operators and others went to Palos.

The rescue work was slow. The oxygen helmets were brought into use, but a cave-in a few hundred feet in from the mine mouth closed the passage of fresh air.

Among the whites known to be in the mine are J. S. Pennington, his twenty-four-year-old son Cliff, a sixteen-year-old son Albert and a fifteen-year-old son Clarence. Pennington leaves a widow and eight more children. Others in the mine are J. L. McCain, Knox McCain, his sons Elliott and Melvin, aged fifteen and thirteen respectively; Bob Bray, Ralph Seizer, aged fourteen years; John McArde, Jim Clarke, Bob White, Dave Williams, Dave Swiffin, Dugal Guthrie, James Curley, Lee Brostein, aged sixteen; John Milligan, seventeen; Burgan Brasfield, Ransom Brasfield, Martin Black, Martin Barrell, Fred Stansburg and Hem Stansburg.

The Palos Coal and Coke company is made up of the Messers, Dromen of Birmingham. M. B. Dromen is general superintendent and James Baird superintendent. According to the general superintendent there is no telling what caused the explosion.

The first aid to the injured societies from all parts of the mining district reached the scene within a few hours after the accident, and every device known to the mining profession was brought into action. E. H. Cox, general superintendent of coal mines of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company, was one of the leaders in the rescue work. There was not the least hope that any could be alive.

The mine is a slope in the side of the mountain. Assistant State Mine Inspector Bob Neal, who was on the scene within a few hours after the explosion, said that the mines had been inspected a short time ago. He would not give any opinion as to what caused the explosion, but he expressed a serious doubt as to any of the men being alive.

The Red Cross society, through Jekie Cabaniss and a number of members from Birmingham, are on the scene offering such succor as possible to those in distress.

The rescuing parties passed three bodies, but no effort was made to pick them up. Two members of the rescuing parties were overcome by after-damp, and three others in getting their ladders away from the foul air came near succumbing. The work will be kept up until the men in the mines are reached dead or alive.

Birmingham, Ala., May 8.—(later.) The State mine inspectors and the government officials made a desperate fight to get down into the mine again this morning. They wore oxygen helmets and carried tanks. The mine was found to be filled with gas. Although nothing definite was learned, it is the consensus of opinion of the inspectors and mine officials that not a man of those shut in by yesterday's explosion, is living.

May 5 1910 Palos Mine Explosion Killing
Mail Carrier Samuel Goolsby

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tapayne53
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