

4 Bodies Found in Scott

By ELIZABETH STINNETT
News-Sentinel Correspondent

ROBBINS, Tenn., March 23—An explosion ripped through a small coal mine near here today and nine men are believed dead.

Four bodies had been brought out early this afternoon, including the two of the owners. No hope was held for the other five men.

The bodies recovered:

Oscar West, about 45, whose body was the first reached, shortly before noon.

Hubert Phillips, a co-owner.

Bernard Yancey.

Elmer Phillips.

The five men in the mine and for whom no hope was held were: Burl Phillips, father of Elmer Phillips, and also of Arzo Phillips, whose body was brought out; Willard Yancey, John L. Pike and Ed Chitwood.

Like Running

Oscar West, whose home is in Oneida, 18 miles north of the mine, was the father of four children.

A kinsman, W. O. West, who also had an interest in the mine said later:

"We don't know what happened."

There was thought to have been a gas explosion, however.

Three of the bodies were found lying face downward in the mine, as though the men had been running.

Families Gather

J. R. Miller, chief inspector for the State Labor Department,

11 Seized in Puzzle Swindle

FBI Acts in Nation-Wide Case

WASHINGTON, March 23 (UPI) Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested 11 persons today in a crackdown on a nation-wide swindle involving newspaper puzzle contests.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover

Knoxville, was sent to the scene. He was to direct an investigation of the disaster.

All available men in the area were thrown into rescue operations.

"Our first task is to try to reach the men," said the sheriff's office at Huntsville, county seat of Scott County. We'll investigate after we rescue or recover the bodies."

Ambulances were standing by for the bodies brought out.

A narrow road leads over to the mountain and many going to the scene had to get out of vehicles and walk. Families of the men and others gathered at the pit.

Works About Dozen

The West Mine is a small truck mine a few miles out of Robbins. Normally it does not work more than a dozen men.

Reports to West Funeral Home in Oneida at noon were that nine men were believed to have been in the mine at the time of the explosion. Two other men were said to have been accounted for.

Four ambulances and cars were sent to the scene by the funeral home.

Although the first body brought out was thought to be that of the mine owner, there has been some difficulty in identification.

State Highway Patrolmen were among those called to aid.

Identification Difficult

In Knoxville, Division Patrol Chief George Burdette said the Patrol had been told that the mine "blew up" and 9 persons were believed trapped inside.

"We've had few details so far," said Chief Burdette. "We sent three or four cruisers to the scene to direct traffic and help anyway they can. They went from Oneida, Rockwood and Sunbright. A number of ambulances from nearby towns are also at the scene."