

Two Iron Miners Crushed to Death

MINEVILLE, N. Y., Jan. 5 (AP) — Two iron miners were crushed to death at 1 P. M. today beneath a loaded ore car that shot backward 2,000 feet so fast it broke through a safety bulkhead of steel and heavy timber.

The victims, Norman W. Fields, 30, of Witherbee and John W. Parsons, 26, of Moriah Center, were working deep inside Republic Steel's Fisher Hill mine. State police said an empty ore car, moving into the mine, jumped its track and crashed into the full car, which was rising out of the slope. The cars operate over double tracks by cable.

In the collision the steel grip holding the loaded car was broken allowing it to roll free down the 2,000-foot slope of 33 degrees at a terrific speed smashing through the door of a thick bulkhead and striking the men who were laying forms for an extension of the tracks. Normally the door is lifted by compressed air when a car is to enter.

The ore car was carrying a 15-ton load, and the car itself weighs nearly that much. The track is free of curves from the entrance of the mine to the bulkhead. Sgt. J. P. Snell of Port Henry State Police headed the investigation with Coroner Miller.

Kyle Gray, 33, of Mineville, who also was working in the slope, leaped out of the way when he heard the noise of the collision. He was taken to Mineville Hospital, suffering shock.

Dr. John Miller of Crown Point, Essex County coroner, held an inquest but issued no decision pending an interview with Gray.

The bodies were taken to the Holland Funeral Home at Port Henry. Both of the victims are married and Fields has a son. Parsons was a native of Old Forge.

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Runaway Ore Car Kills 2 Miners

Mineville—(AP)—Two iron miners were crushed to death Wednesday by a loaded ore car that smashed through a safety bulkhead after shooting backward down a 2,000-foot slope.

Norman W. Fields, 30, of Withersbee, and John W. Parsons, 26, of Moriah Center were killed deep inside Republic Steel's Fisher Hill mine.

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