



The Birmingham Post

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"Easy to Read and Worth Reading"

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HOME
EDITION

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IN CENTS: BIRMINGHAM
FIVE CENTS: ELSEWHERE

33 KILLED IN MUGA MINE LAST; GAS SENDS 1 RUSHING TO DOOM

THEY MIGHT HAVE LIVED IF THEY HAD REMAINED AT POST

Their Flight Led Right
Into Fumes That
Killed Them

DISCARD LAMPS

Bodies Pitch Forward
Upon Each Other
In The Shafts

By Cecil Hurst

Two of the 33 men whose lives were snuffed out in the Muga mine explosion might be living now if they had remained in the section where they were when the blast occurred.

Three miners suffocated with gas that pervaded the various underground levels after the explosion. They were in the section known as 13 shaft left.

At first rescuers thought these men might have saved themselves in the section, a large and airy study of the mine, but later it developed that they became panic-stricken and fled to the main landing, or shaft, in the hope of getting out alive.

Bodies Flung Up
Their bodies were found along the corridor of Section 13-Left. Some were pitched forward on their faces. Some of the bodies were piled up at the section's entrance.

None of these men received any body injuries. All apparently died of effects of the gas. Some had pulled off their lamps and started running toward the main landing. The men seemed to know they had been warned.

Death In Flames
One Negro and one white miner picked forward on their backs, as though they had been hurled, as a result of the gas, toward the main landing.

Rescue workers said some of the men in Section 13-Right and 13-Left were struck by flying coal when the blast struck the mine. About 15 of them killed were in this section. White miners reported that the bodies of the men were found in the shaft.

As the bodies were brought up to the surface at the main entrance, some were bleeding. Others were charred over the bodies. Charred bones protruded.

PONSELLE HAS FUN AT
EXPENSE OF HER AID

ATLANTA, Oct. 16.—Rosa Ponselle, opera star, stopped a concert last night to thank the aid of her accompanist, Stuart Rose, because he was playing in the wrong key.

Rose, playing a contralto, stole instead of the correct accompaniment for Miss Ponselle, left the stage and returned in a few minutes with the right copy of the music.

STATE TO BUILD BRIDGES
MONTGOMERY, Oct. 16.—(Special)

Montgomery today asked the bids on three bridge projects, two in Randolph County and one in Tuscaloosa County. The bids will be opened in Montgomery Nov. 2.

A Home!

What a sense of security this brings to the mind's eye.

Your Home!

One that you really OWN and are not going to be ordered to vacate.

What A Difference

From renting 4 walls and a roof to shelter you and yours.

Own Your Home

See Today's Listings

Want Ad Page

SURVIVOR HAS SUDDEN BRUSH WITH TRAGEDY

Miner Describes Horror Of
Moment When Heavy
Blast Occurred

By Cecil Hurst

From Fox, only survivor of the Muga mine disaster, crawled about 100 yards in an effort to reach the main landing after he had been seriously injured. He was in the mine when the explosion occurred.

"I was the first one to reach the main landing," he said. "I was about 100 yards from the main landing when the blast occurred. I was badly hurt."

Eddie Grammer, who was in Section 13-Left, one level above Mr. Fox, said:

"The explosion happened, then I saw the light. I was in the mine when the explosion occurred. I was badly hurt."

"I was the first one to reach the main landing," he said. "I was about 100 yards from the main landing when the blast occurred. I was badly hurt."

(See Survivor, Page Two)

Negro Couldn't
Bootleg; He'd Be
Only Customer

By Cecil Hurst

MEMPHIS, Oct. 16.—Orin Leonard, 45-year-old Negro, explained to City Court Judge Boyd today why bootlegging charges against him should not be upheld.

"I just couldn't be a bootlegger," Judge Boyd said. "I don't like to be a bootlegger. I'd be my only customer."

Judge Boyd agreed and dismissed the charge.

Nobody Kicks About This Kicker

By Cecil Hurst

And still and still across the road that has been made a driving school for the young of the city, the car of young Robert Higgins, Chevrolet, was seen in the line of cars.

Only they, the young of the city, the car of young Robert Higgins, Chevrolet, was seen in the line of cars. The car was seen in the line of cars.

She Cries, Remotely

By Cecil Hurst

Farther down this street, the "300" street on which most of the dead bodies were found, the car of young Robert Higgins, Chevrolet, was seen in the line of cars.

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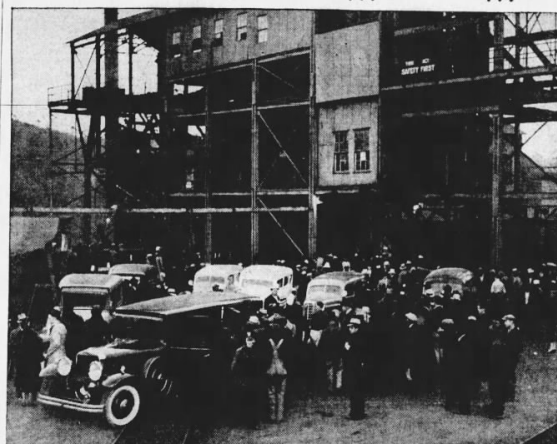
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The living wait frantically at the mouth of the gaping Muga Mine . . . where down deep 33 died in a gas explosion.

THEY KNOW GRIEF NOW—THESE WHOSE LIVING WAS IN MINE

Fear That Dwells Constantly In The Hearts Of
Those Whose Men Go Down To Dig Coal
Is A Reality In 33 Bayview Homes

By Jean Meyer

Back in the pine-dense hills of Bayview, where narrow rocky roads wind between rows of shacks—back where the sound of the wind alone breaks the silence—there lies the true heart of this morning's mine tragedy.

Three hundred mothers, widows and children of the 33 miners who died in the explosion are huddled about their beds, waiting for news of their loved ones.

The black shacks of danger that looms constantly over their lives have fallen, shattering into fragments and leaving a void in the hearts of the miners' wives.

"No, no," she moans softly. "What am I going to do without you? What am I going to do?"

On a battered sofa in another corner of the room, a mother sits, her face a mask of grief. She is the wife of a miner who died in the explosion. She is the wife of a miner who died in the explosion.

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DEADLY GAS ROCKS SHAFT

Only One Workman In Immediate Vicinity Of
Explosion Survives; He's Badly Injured,
Unable To Talk. Given Even Chance

12 WHITE MEN AND 21 NEGROES DEAD

300 Diggers At Work On Other Levels Escape;

One Tells Of Terrific Shock, Entire Lack
Of Air, Rushing Smoke; Probe Starts

By Irving Beiman

A terrific explosion rocked the bowels of the earth at the Muga Coal mine of Woodward Iron Co., northwest of Birmingham, early today, leaving 33 men dead and one critically injured.

Approximately 300 other men who were working at different levels in the coal mine escaped to the surface without injury.

A rescue crew of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, aided by miners, comprising a party of 50 men, went into the mine to bring out the bodies.

At 10 a. m. the rescue party had brought 31 bodies to the surface, and went back for more.

Of those killed in the blast, 12 were white men and the others were Negroes.

The explosion, although unofficially explained, is believed to have been caused by gas which was ignited by a cutting machine used in the mine.

Among those who escaped and reached the surface, Eddie Grammer, a shot foreman, was the first to give any graphic description of what happened deep down in the shaft.

The explosion happened about four and a half miles from the surface. The main shaft of the mine goes straight down for about 150 feet and then branches off into slanting shafts, like tentacles of an octopus.

The explosion happened in the shaft 13 shafts down.

Survivor Gives First Eyewitness Account

Grammer, who was working on Shaft No. 11, told his story after he reached the top with other workers.

"We were working when suddenly we heard a terrific explosion," he said. "The wind rushed in, hitting us in the face. I clapped my hands to my ears. I felt like my ear drums had broken and were bleeding. The air stopped. Smoke started coming into our shaft."

"We knew something terrible had happened. We rushed out and started down to the No. 13 level."

"When we got to the entrance of Level No. 13 the door had been blown in by the blast. We dug a new entrance," he continued.

"We could see the dead men all about us. One man was still alive. His name is I an Fox, a track helper. He was badly burned. I took one look at him and it seemed that his eye balls were burned out."

There were 24 men in the No. 13 shaft when the explosion occurred. There were 10 more working on the level above. They all were suffocated. The 300 other men were working on different levels.

Only One Survivor From No. 13 Shaft

A few minutes after the explosion—at 11 p. m.—families of the miners started gathering in the darkness at the mouth of the mine.

Amidst the confusion at Birmingham rushed to the scene as news of the blast was flashed into the city. T. C. I. Hospital at Fairfield made ready to receive any injured.

But ironically there was only one injured person, Ivan Fox. He was taken to the Bessemer General Hospital. Doctors there, after examination, said he had an even chance to live, but that he was in a critical condition. He was unable to talk to anyone.

Dr. C. C. Colquhoun, surgeon for Woodward Iron Co., was at the scene with attaches to render what aid he could.

Through the hours of darkness until dawn members of the families of the men who had gone down into the deep cavern in the earth, stood by waiting frantically for the bodies to be brought up.

When the rescuers reached the surface, bearing their tragic cargo, a silence fell over those at the mine entrance. Sobs broke out among the women.

Some of those brought out were burned badly, others asphyxiated.

(See Blast, Page Two)

PORTION OF ALLEGED
SHORTAGE IS RECEIVED

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 16.—(Special)

Mississippi today received \$12,000 from R. D. Moore, a former member of the Senate.

Moore has been under fire from a group of Mississippians who charged a shortage in the state's funds.

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