

VICTIMS ARE ALL DROWNED AT ISHPEMING

Seven Bodies Recovered; Underground Lake Burst Through Mine Walls

SURVIVOR TELLS STORY

Worst Holocaust In Michigan Mining History; Rush of Water Tore Men

ISHPEMING, Mich., Nov. 4—(UP)—With the families of the victims silently grouped about the mouth of the shaft, rescue crews today started an attempt to tunnel through 1,500 feet of treacherous quicksand to the third level of the Barnes Hecker mine, where 52 men are believed to have met instant death, when an underground lake flooded the mine.

The rescue workers, volunteer miners from surrounding mines, are hampered by the lack of pumps and other equipment.

Bodies of seven of the victims were removed from a tunnel, through which they attempted to escape to an adjoining mine.

The disaster, said by mine officials to be the worst in the history of the Lake Superior district, occurred yesterday when water and quicksand from an underground lake penetrated 250 feet of ore and quickly filled the mine.

The victims, working on the third level, were trapped. They had only one chance to escape. This was a tunnel which runs from the level to the North Lake mine, two miles away.

Bodies Torn

They rushed into the tunnel but the torrent overtook them. The bodies of seven, stripped of all clothing by the force of the rushing water, were found halfway through the tunnel late yesterday. Condition of the bodies indicated they had been carried a long distance by the water.

The underground lake, swollen by recent heavy rains, gave way at 11:20 yesterday morning and a portion of the lake bottom 300 feet long and 200 feet wide fell into the mine. The torrent of mud and water swept through the first level and dropped to the bottom of the shaft, filling the third level.

Within fifteen minutes, the entire mine was flooded and two hours after the cave-in, the water had risen to a point 250 feet below the surface.

Officials of the mine realized, when they heard the deafening roar of the crush, that there was no hope of saving the men.

Work of unwatering the levels was started immediately and at eight o'clock last night the seven bodies were removed.

Ask More Pumps

At 7 a. m., today the water in the shaft had been lowered 230 feet. Work of pumping the water from the shaft is slow and an appeal has been sent out for pumps suitable for sand work.

One of the bodies recovered was that of William E. Hill, Marquette county mine inspector. His was the first body brought to the surface.

The others were: William Tippet, captain of the Barnes Hecker mine, Harvey Vepsola, William Hout, Justice of the peace at North Lake, Mich., John Luoma, Henry Haspala, and Thomas Kirby, Sr.

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