

**Weather**  
COLD, SNOW FLURRIES  
Yesterday's Temperatures  
High 28; Low 22

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# THE MORNING HERALD

Fayette County's Only Morning Newspaper

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Only Your Newspaper  
Can Provide You The  
COMPLETE STORY . . .

SEVEN CENTS

## Rescue Teams Inching Closer To 37 In Robena Mine Blast



**KEEPING VIGIL AT MINE DISASTER**—Relatives of 37 men trapped by explosion in Robena 3 Mine are shown keeping a grim vigil in a building next to the Frosty Run shaft, Greene County.

—Photos by McCluskey, Poliak and Kirby of the Associated Press  
The wife of one of the victims on the right is reading the Morning Herald edition carrying first news of the blast. They continued their silent wait into the early morning hours today.



**AFTER AN ALL-DAY OF WAITING**—Catching a brief sleeping period are three men waiting, entering a second day of waiting near the mine shaft.

## Grim Task May Extend To Sunday

Morning Herald Staff Special

Rescue crews, laboring in the second day of operations, inched forward yesterday toward 37 coal miners trapped 650 feet underground by a shattering blast in U.S. Steel's Robena 3 Mine, near Carmichaels, Greene County.

"We're getting closer," Pennsylvania's Secretary of Mines Lewis Evans told The Morning Herald last night. "We haven't given up hope."

Mr. Evans said crews have moved within 4,700 feet of the face of the mine where the trapped men were working.

### OFFICIAL VIEW

"We may know something definitely by 36 hours from now," Mr. Evans said at 7:15 last night—30 hours after the explosion which occurred Thursday at 1:15 p.m.

The 36-hour limit would extend through today to Sunday morning about 7 o'clock.

Secretary Evans added that it is "possible that a number of men were not at the extreme end of the mine and could be 3,000 feet in front of where the most force would rescue team was at that time."

"We think we are making good progress under the most trying circumstances. The main problem so far has been rebuilding the ventilation system which was knocked out by the explosion."

### VAST RESCUE EFFORTS

A U.S. Steel official said, "It is like building an entire new mine in some places."

Secretary Evans said "it depends upon what the rescue teams encounter to determine when we will reach the trapped men. The rescue crews encountered several falls but none was extensive. The carbon monoxide reading was not alarming yesterday. I can say we anticipated a higher reading."

Last night there were 60 men working underground in the vast rescue efforts. A similar number was above ground providing engineering and supply assistance.

Officials pointed out that the rescue teams do not want another similar disaster. "We do not want another similar disaster," they added.

### Key Vigil

Meanwhile, relatives of the trapped men maintain their vigil in a large corrugated steel building near the mine shaft.

The temperature in the mine is estimated at 38 to 40 degrees. Mr. Evans said this would have no effect on the men, who are accustomed to these temperatures.

There was no way of knowing if the men were alive or dead. Other officials at the scene included James Westfield, assistant director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines in Washington; Charles Ferguson, director of Safety, United Mine Workers; William J. Hyman, president of District 10; and Rex Luedtke, associated editor of the Mine Workers Journal, Washington.

While Secretary Evans was answering questions of newsmen, anxious members of the families of the trapped miners listened intently, seeking some knowledge of the fate of their loved ones.

A Robena worker if the mine yesterday said that at a point one and one-half miles from the face of the pit they found a charred pit-post that had been blasted from the scene of the explosion.

Almost silently, relatives of the trapped men wept in the large meeting room near the mine shaft, speak in soft murmur. An electric heater on the wall whirled in the background. They are the wives, sons, daughters and mothers of the victims. They wait for some word.

The Outlook  
Secretary Evans said the trapped men stood a chance of surviving if they had time to construct a barricade sealing themselves off from the deadly gases. Even if this were done, no one could say how long their oxygen could last.

James Giroc, an assistant mine superintendent in charge of the rescue operation, said: "There is nothing to indicate whatsoever that they are alive or dead."

Forty-four other miners working

in another part of the shaft escaped unhurt and stayed at the mine to help in rescue operations. The corridor in which the trapped men are located branches off the main tunnel. The main tunnel is at the bottom of 825-foot shaft.

Rescue crews were also brought in from U. S. Steel mines in Lynch, Ky., and Gary, W. Va. All but one of the trapped men are miners with years or more service. Total mine experience of the 37 is 819 years, an average of 22 years per man.

Gives Views  
Robena 3, part of the world's largest shaft, was struck by the first explosion in its 16-year history just last October. Two men were killed then.

"I just feel empty, I feel empty," says 36-year-old Mrs. Eugene Zarak, whose husband is one of the miners entombed in the explosion-ripped soft coal mine. She clutches the hand of her 14-year-old son, Eugene Jr. She starts to weep. She can't stop. Her body shakes.

Edith Seper, whose husband, Charles, 44, and her brother are trapped below, says, "I hate mines. I've always hated the mines."

Somewhere brings in a Morning Herald newspaper. It passes from person to person.

In Reply  
After a while a company official comes into the room and speaks. He says the rescuers are doing all they can. He says they are not sure about the gas but they won't endanger the lives of the rescuers. A few people nod in agreement.

He says they are still 4,700 feet from the trapped men. A woman sobs. A veteran miner says, "That's a long way."

William Hiral, father of the trapped James Hiral, said a miner for himself for 40 years, stands one side. "Ever been in a mine explosion?" someone asks.

"A fire once," he replied. "I also hurt my back in a rock fall, but I've never been in an explosion."

## Deaths



**MINE RESCUE MEMBER**—A member of the Robena 3 Mine rescue team is shown above after he emerged from mine where 37 men were still trapped early today. He carries vital equipment for rescue mission.



**WAITING FOR NEWS ON FATE OF HUSBAND**—Mrs. James Hiral, Carmichaels, whose husband is among the trapped mine employees, is shown with mine rescue man, right, who came to surface for well-deserved rest period. Youth on left is unidentified.



**GRIM-FACED MINE RESCUE CREWMAN**—After hours of tedious duties in examining Robena 3 mine, this rescue team member is ready to re-enter shaft. Sign in the rear reads: "Safety is the First Consideration."

## Garrett Area Snow-Struck

16-Inch Fall In Md. District

BALTIMORE (AP) — Sixteen inches of snow were reported in Garrett County Friday as the first major snowstorm of the season struck Maryland.

While Western Maryland started digging out, both sides lapped as much as three feet above normal in parts of Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore.

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 6)

## Call Woman For Sentence

Conviction On Medicine Charge

A Uniontown woman convicted earlier this year in Criminal Court of practicing medicine without a license, is scheduled to be sentenced this morning by Judge Samuel J. Peigis.

Evelyn A. Ridgeway, of S. M. Verona Ave., is accused in the case by John Ombroski of Clarksville, a state investigator. Ombroski testified Mrs. Ridgeway sold him herbs and gave him treatments for arthritis.

The sentence was scheduled after a motion for a new trial filed by defense counsel was withdrawn.

DANCE, TONITE—2:00 TO 2:30 TOWNEILL HALL, 215 FINE HALL.

## New Civil Court Here Scheduled

A total of 41 cases, mostly damage suits, have been scheduled for Civil Court trial sessions during the weeks of Jan. 14 and Jan. 21. Customarily, only a fraction of the cases actually go to trial and the remainder are settled out of court, continued, or disposed of by other means.

The 22 cases on the list for the first week of Civil Court are as follows. They are damage suits unless otherwise indicated.

Victor Hladik vs. Ann Marie, breach of contract; Blanche B. Justice vs. Equitable Life Assurance, breach of contract; Anthony Joe Kaydo vs. Glenn Smith; Eliza (Continued on Page 6, Col. 6)

Entertainment Sunday 3 P.M. North Union Fire Dept. Hall

Red-Sn. Dance Every Sat. Nine STRICKLER'S BARN—8:30-12

VILLAGE BARN—Men of Chant

CHRISTMAS TRIFLES—5:00 to 10:00 Towell Motor Sales, 563 Morganstown, St. Opce. Eve's & Sunday.

DANCE TONITE—MASON-TOWN ADOLPH'S TAVERN

Dance TONITE—TOP HAT HOTEL

## Set School Vacations In Region

Annual Christmas vacation in Fayette County public schools will start for some districts with no classes on Thursday, Dec. 20.

Others will have to wait until Friday the 21st to lay aside their books.

Uniontown City and Joint Schools will close for the holiday at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21. The Area Technical School, in Uniontown will quit classes at noon on Friday.

All public schools will resume classes on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

School systems to start vacations after regular classes Wednesday, Dec. 19, are as follows:

Bullskin Twp., Connelville Joint Township, Dunbar Borough, Dunbar Twp., Sallick Twp., South Connelville Borough, Springfield Twp., Connelville City.

Those systems to hold school on the 20th and dismiss after regular classes on Friday, Dec. 21, are as follows:

DANCE TONITE—MASON-TOWN ADOLPH'S TAVERN

Dance TONITE—TOP HAT HOTEL



## New Honors Are Won By Miss Cloud

A former local newspaperwoman, Barbara Cloud, a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Milton H. Cloud, 36 Wilson Ave., has won additional laurels in journalism.

A member of the Women's Dept. of the Pittsburgh Press for the past five years, Barbara was awarded first place in special women's department feature-writing classification—the only woman made in this category.

The event took place this week in Pittsburgh's Hotel Hilton and known as the Golden Quill Awards. This annual affair is one in which members of Pittsburgh district newspapers and television stations are given recognition for outstanding journalistic efforts, is (Continued on Page 6, Col. 6)

Plan Final Rites For Mrs. Gordon

Funeral services for Mrs. T. Gordon, 80, of R. D. 1, Dawson, scheduled for today at 2 p.m. have been postponed until Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

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