

# FUNERAL RITES BEING HELD FOR 17 MEN CLAIMED IN DERBY MINE DISASTER; INQUIRY IS STARTED

## GROCER AREA IS ENLARGED

In a conference in Roanoke, Va., August 3, 1934, with Mr. M. B. Staples, Jr., Chairman, Virginia Food and Grocery Distributors' Code Authority, it was mutually agreed to add to the Norton Area the counties of Tazewell and Buchanan. This makes Norton Area Number 259 consist of the following counties: Lee, Scott, Wise, Russell, Dickenson, Tazewell and Buchanan. Mr. Hudson with the Bristol Area and A. F. Snodgrass, Secretary-Treasurer, Local Code Authority attended the conference with Mr. Staples.

Norton Area Number 259 was the first in the State to be recognized and given a certificate of authority, and is functioning almost one hundred percent.

## WOLFE CLAN TO HEAR CARTER

Reunion of Wolfe Family  
is Scheduled at Gate  
City on Sunday, August  
12th

Gate City, Aug. 8. — Circuit Court Judge E. T. Carter has been requested to make the address of welcome at the reunion of the Wolfe family to be held here on the Shoemaker high school grounds Sunday, August 13.

The committee working out the program to be followed on the day of the reunion said it had received accepted invitations from members of the Wolfe family in distant states and also from well known Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee men to attend the meeting.

Among the visitors from other states will be: Prof. Ewing Starnes, instructor at Annapolis naval academy; Rev. W. B. Shelton, Greenville, Texas, and Prof. Eugene Wolfe, author, economist, and teacher at the University of Cincinnati.

Part of the program for the day will be a visit to the grave of John Wolfe, early Scott county pioneer, and to the Holston Springs section where the early Wolfe families settled. Wolfe was buried one and a half miles north of here, while the Holston Springs section is four miles south.

## VIRGINIA SHERIFFS FEEL UNDERPAID

Sheriff J. Preston Adams, president of the recently organized Virginia Sheriff's Association, reports that the organization is hopeful of so improving conditions for the sheriffs that they can better serve the public.

It is the opinion of the organized sheriffs that they are entitled to "a fair compensation" for their "very much underpaid services."

An adequate salary for a county sheriff, instead of the present system of compensation involving expenses which the sheriff himself must bear, would enable the officer to render much better service.

Entire Mining Section  
Mourns for Victims of  
Worst Mine Disaster in  
Recent Years; 70 escape  
Through Abandoned  
Outcrop Opening

## DERBY IS MODEL MINE

Considered One of Most  
Modernized Mines in  
Southern Coalfields; All  
Coal Mined by Machinery

Appalachia, Big Stone Gap and surrounding sections joined the mining community of Derby yesterday and today in sorrow as funeral rites were being held for the victims of the Derby mine disaster which claimed the lives of 17 men and injured three. The explosion occurred early Monday morning.

Federal and State mine inspectors and company officials spent yesterday investigating the causes of the explosion. Ralph E. Taggart, of Philadelphia, vice-president of the Stonega Coke & Coal Company, arrived Tuesday for the inquiry.

### 17 Killed

The 17 killed in the explosion were:

Ralph Burchell, Derby, general mine foreman, married, one child. Funeral services held yesterday at Derby and body taken to Houtzdale, Pa., for burial.

Dan Jenkins, Derby, single. Buried yesterday at Elizabethton, Tenn.

Charles Reece, Stonega, married and father of nine children. Buried yesterday at Mountain City, Tenn.

Clyde Ward, Exeter, single. Funeral at 8:30 yesterday and body taken to Cumberland, Ky., for burial.

Alex Payne, married, no children. Body taken to Crab Orchard in Lee county for interment.

Charles Milam, Derby, married, one child. Buried yesterday in Big Stone Gap cemetery.

Ransom Slemph, Big Stone Gap, single. Services will be held today at the Seminary in Lee county.

Roscoe Smart, Big Stone Gap, married, no children. Buried yesterday in Big Stone Gap cemetery.

Walter Moore, Derby, single. Burial to be made today at Pennington Gap.

Ted Johnson, Osaka, married, no children. Funeral today at Big Stone Gap.

William Burns, Big Stone Gap. Buried yesterday in Powell Valley cemetery.

Kyle Fields, Derby, married, two children. Funeral today at Lebanon, Va.

William Smith, Andover, married.

Jessie Doyle, Derby, married, three children.

Clarence Reed, Derby, married, no children.

Lafayette Blondell, Appalachia, single.

Lester Day, Derby, married, two children.

The injured are Lawrence Fleenor, (Walter Bayless and Bramer Tucker. None serious.

## Explosion Local

The explosion, believed caused by coal dust, occurred in the "Little West" section of the mine in the low coal where the roof ranges from thirty-six inches to forty-eight inches high. All the men working in this section were killed together with all men in the main passageway from this section to the mouth. The force of the explosion was diverted to the outside by a brattice door located in the main passageway just beyond the entrance to the west section.

Seventy men working in the main section of the mine escaped through an abandoned outcrop opening. Their escape is credited to the quick thinking of Superintendent Brownie E. Polly who waded through three feet of water through old opening and led the men to safety. One of the heroic rescues of the accident was that of Bramer Tucker. Under the influence of carbon monoxide, he had fallen in the mine but was picked up by Homer Rutherford, a motorman, and carried to safety through the water to the outcrop opening.

Two men, Fred Sloan and Henry Bowers, were at the mouth of the mine when the explosion occurred. They were blown from 75 to 100 feet dropped to the ground with only slight injuries. Eye-witnesses state a long column of flame spurted from the mouth of the mine. The opposite hillside about two hundred yards opposite to the mouth of the mine, bears evidence of the explosion.

Mine rescue crews worked con-

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## 17 KILLED IN MINE DISASTER

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tinuously for twenty-three hours fighting the deadly fumes before they reached the face of the western section of the mine. The rescue operations were under the personal direction of J. D. Rogers, vice president; A. H. Reeder, general superintendent; C. A. Sine, safety engineer, and Joe Davis of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

### Model Mine

This Derby No. 3 mine is considered one of the most modern mines in the Southern coalfields. All coal is mined and loaded by machinery of the most modern type. The mine was inspected by the Virginia editors last July during the summer convention of the Virginia Press Association.

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