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City Edition

The Punxsutawney Spirit.

THE WEATHER. Rain turning to snow flurries tonight. Snow Sunday

VOL. X.—No. 126 | PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA., SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 12, 1916 | PRICE TWO CENTS

TWENTY-FIVE KNOWN DEAD IN MINE EXPLOSION AT ERNEST

POCKET OF GAS IGNITES AND SERIES OF COAL DUST EXPLOSIONS IN ERNEST MINE NO. 2 OF ROCHESTER AND PITTSBURGH COAL AND IRON CO. SEND MINERS TO ETERNITY---BODIES OF 25 DEAD BROUGHT TO SURFACE

Mine Foreman and Assistant Fire Boss Are Among Known Dead--Nearly Half of Victims Were English Speaking Men--Rescue Party Finds Five Men Alive and Resuscitates Them by the Use of the Pulmotor--Member of Rescue Party is Overcome and Resuscitated With Difficulty--Mine Inspector Lowther Heads Rescue Party That Does Valiant Work--Special Train Carried Mine Officials From Punxsutawney to Scene of Disaster--Rescue Car From Bureau of Mines Make Record Run.

Twenty-five dead and six injured, is the toll paid by miners employed in Ernest Mine No. 2, as the result of an explosion of coal dust, which was ignited, when a pocket of gas was opened without warning yesterday afternoon.

The identification of the dead men occupied all of this forenoon, and it was nearly noon before it was known definitely that all the men in the mine at the time of the explosion had been accounted for. Shortly after 2 o'clock a complete list of the dead was available.

TWENTY-FIVE DEAD IDENTIFIED

J. W. BALLS, mine foreman; son of J. W. Balls, of Frostburg. Leaves wife and five children.
CARL STRANQUIST, of Ernest; assistant fire boss; single.
GEORGE BUNTON, of Ernest; single.
JOHN CONNELLY, track boss, of Ernest; married, leaves wife and six children.
ALEX. BROSKIN, loader; wife and three children.
FRED BARCELLA, loader; wife and four children.
DON ROSINA, loader; single.
AUGUST MAGEON, loader; single.
JOE SOLDERA, loader; single.
JAMES BARDENO, cutter; wife and two children.
JAMES COMERATTI, loader; wife and five children.
IGNATZ PISTACK, loader; wife and six children.
FRANK BONOFHOSKI, loader; wife and three children.
PAUL TAGGART, loader; wife and one child.
JAMES HERMAN, loader; wife.
IGNATZ BALCERCUSKI, loader; wife and eight children.
STANLEY BALCERCUSKI, loader; single.
GEORGE GURRENA, cutter; single.
ANTONIO PAULI, loader; single.
JOHN ASICK, loader; wife and four children.
ROSSA ARTURIA, loader; single.
ANTONIO BARILARI, loader; single.
NORRIS ALLEN, loader; wife and one child.
STEVE FERRIS, laborer; single.
MAX SCHMIDT, loader; single.

THE RESCUED:

W. R. NORD, of Ernest, aged 42; burned about head and face; in Indiana Hospital.
MIKE CARRELL, of Ernest, aged 37; burned about face; in Indiana Hospital.
TONY WILLISH, of Ernest, aged 38; burned about face and body; in Indiana Hospital.
TWO FOREIGNERS, whose names have not been learned; partly overcome by fire and smoke, resuscitated.

12:30 P.M.—Shortly before the noon hour a rescue party working in 15th right heading of the Ernest mine, in which the explosion of yesterday afternoon occurred, found the bodies of six men, among them that of Mine Foreman Balls.

RESCUER IS OVERCOME BY GAS

James McGuire, member of the rescue party, was overcome by gas and resuscitated.

A pocket of gas is believed to have been responsible for the initial explosion, and a series of coal dust explosions are thought to have followed. It was the latter that undoubtedly caused the great loss of life.

The explosion occurred in what is known as "15th right heading" off Nos. 3 and 4 line headings in Mine No. 2, which is a drift mine. The first intimation of the disaster came when a foreigner staggered from the mine and in broken and excited English told of the explosions, and of his belief that every man in that section of the mine was dead. A rescue party was hurriedly organized, but deadly after damp compelled their retreat. The mine, one of the best ventilated in the bituminous section, and regarded as a model mine in arrangement, was soon partly cleared of the after damp and the second rescue party penetrated to the scene of the explosions about 10 o'clock last night. The first of the bodies were found and carried to the bottom of the main slope. Another rescue party entered the mine at 11 o'clock, and it was at this time that James McGuire, one of the rescuers, was overcome by the after damp. He was hurriedly carried to the surface and there resuscitated by use of the pulmotor.

FIVE MEN ARE FOUND ALIVE

Five men were found alive by the second rescue party on the outskirts of the point at which the main explosion had taken place. These men were hurried to the surface and resuscitated. Three of them were sent to the Indiana Hospital.

By 3 o'clock this morning 19 bodies had been found. Owing to the fact that many of the mine cars were wrecked, there was some difficulty in transporting the bodies to the bottom of the slope. At 5 o'clock this morning the 19 bodies were brought to the surface, placed on a special train and sent to the three undertaking establishments at Indiana.

At 9 o'clock this morning the mine was apparently entirely free from after damp, and the rescue parties were circulating freely through all parts of the mine. Men have been set at work digging at the numerous falls, as it is believed that under these the three men thought to be in the mine will be found.

Ordinarily 43 men are employed in that section of the mine in which the explosion occurred. A funeral had taken a number of these men from the mine, and it is thought that about 27 men were at work when the blast occurred.

When the news of the explosion was received here a special train was hurriedly gotten together and at 5 o'clock started for Ernest. On board were B. M. Clark, General Superintendent Frank Pardoe, H. C. Smith, A. B. White, William Scott, George Morris, F. Mute and M. Clayton.

RESCUE CAR ON THE SCENE

The rescue car from the Bureau of Mines at Pittsburgh, made a record-breaking run from Pittsburgh and arrived at Ernest at 3:30 o'clock this morning. The Bureau of Mine rescuers joined in the search for the missing and dead, but by that time the local rescuers had done the major portion of the work. Thomas Lowther, of Indiana, mine inspector for the district in which the Ernest mine is located, headed the local rescue party. With him and working actively in the rescue work were General Manager Fritchman, of Indiana; Mine Inspector Crocker, S. T. Oldham, superintendent of the Ernest mine; George Cokely, formerly of Punxsutawney, assistant superintendent of the Ernest mine, and a number of volunteers from the ranks of the miners.

MINE IS BUT SLIGHTLY DAMAGED

No fire followed the explosion and the men who were burned to death are thought to have come within direct contact with one of the series of explosions. The damage to the mine is not great, and owing to the excellent ventilation and arrangement of the mine the after damp was quickly driven from that section of the mine.

GREAT CROWD AROUND MINE

A great crowd collected about the mine opening after the news of the explosion spread, and many remained all night. This morning the crowd increased when curious ones from Indiana and neighboring towns assembled. When the bodies of the 19 men were brought to the surface there was a surge forward on the part of those who had loved ones in the mine. These were held back and told that the bodies would be taken to Indiana, and that an effort would be made to identify the bodies there.

There was a a singular lack of demonstration on the part of those about the mine opening. Women and children, waited in the cold drizzling rain throughout the night, waiting for news of loved ones known or believed to be in the ill-fated mine.

As soon as the news of the explosion reached Indiana a special train carrying physicians and nurses left for the scene. A temporary hospital has been established in the powerhouse at the mine, under the direction of Dr. H. F. Buterbaugh, of Indiana, and Misses Dill, Howard and Lee, nurses from the hospitals here, are on the grounds.

Rescue squads from Lucerne and Graceton were rushed to Ernest, and within an hour after the explosion 200 men were working to reach the entombed men.

The Ernest mine was the scene of an explosion February 5, 1910, in which 11 were killed.

PITT FRESHMEN LOSE TO PUNXS'Y'S FAST QUINTET

Playing the best game of its career the Punxs'y High School basketball team last night defeated, in the Central Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, the fast Pitt Freshmen five by the score of 55 to 24. It was a clean-cut, well-earned victory with Punxs'y on the long end of the score simply because they outplayed the visitors at every angle of the game.

Punxs'y started off with a rush. Freas coralling a pair of field goals

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PUNXS'Y HOTEL MEN RESENT ORGIE RUMORS

Punxsutawney hotel men are indignant because of the false stories of alleged Bacchanalian orgies Punxsutawney and other sections of the county, printed in a recent issue of the DuBois Express.

So far as the staff of this paper could ascertain no extra police have been added, no state policemen called, and, as a matter of fact, there does not seem to be a greater number of drunks in evidence now than

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HOTEL MEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON CLOSING PROPOSITION

Probable That Pantall and National Will Continue to Do Business in Punxs'y.

MAJORITY ARE AS YET UNDECIDED

The hotel men of the county met yesterday afternoon at Reynoldsville but were unable to reach a conclusion as to concerted definite action.

The majority of the hotel proprietors of the county, confident that without the bar receipts they will be unable to make both ends meet, are in favor of closing up their institutions entirely. A few, who have enjoyed in the past an exceptionally large patronage and who will probably do a bigger business with the small institutions closed, feel that they cannot do otherwise than to stick to the business.

As yet only a very few of the hotel men are willing to say what their plans for the future are.

In Punxsutawney most of the hotel men are a bit different. The Whitney hotel will be closed. This is assured. Two business rooms will be fitted up in the building and there are already several firms seeking the leases. The Pantall hotel and the National hotel, it is practically assured will continue to do business as of yore.

In Reynoldsville Frank's Tavern and the Imperial hotel will remain open for business unless something happens to change the mind of the proprietors.

In Brookville the plans of the hotel men are likewise undetermined as yet. Wade Bellington, proprietor of the Commercial, stated today that he would close up his shop Tuesday night. It is likely that the American and New Jefferson hotels and perhaps the Central will continue to do business.

In the other sections of the county the majority of the hostelry men have apparently arrived at no definite conclusion.

M. BLAIR HOFFMAN DIED AT TRADE CITY LAST EVENING

Younger Brother of Orvis H. and Leon Hoffman is Claimed by Death.

M. Blair Hoffman, son of Philip H. and Sarah J. Hoffman, both deceased, died at 8:40 o'clock last evening near Trade City. He was born January 5, 1890, and had been an invalid practically all his life. He resided at the old Hoffman homestead near Trade City until the death of his mother two years ago. Although he had been a constant sufferer, and a patient one, his condition was not regarded as critical until a few days before his death.

He is survived by two brothers, Orvis C., and Leon H., of this city, and one sister, Miss Verna M. Hoffman, of DuBois.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Rev. Stumph will officiate and burial will be made in the Round Top cemetery near Trade City.

REMARKABLE PICTURE

Manager Hillard of the Gem theatre offered his patrons last night one of the most remarkable and interesting pictures ever shown in this city. It was in seven reels and showed the famed submarine motion pictures taken by the Williamson expedition. This is the first and only picture of its kind and those who did not see it missed an educational treat.

M. W. A. MEETING

The U. M. A. of the United Brethren church will hold their monthly meeting in the church on Sunday at 3 p. m. A full attendance of the members is expected. Ladies come and bring others with you. All women are welcomed.

"NUMBER PLEASE" GIRLS ARE ENTERTAINED BY MRS. JORDAN

Mrs. Leslie Jordan entertained the operators of the Summerville Telephone Company at her home on Torrence street last evening.

CHICAGOIAN ATTEMPTS WHOLESALE MURDER OF 500 BANQUET GUESTS

Placed Poison in Soup at Banquet Given at University Club For An Archbishop.

ARREST IS EXPECTED THIS EVENING

International News Service.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—Details of a sinister plot by a supposed fanatic whose influenced mind impelled him to attempt wholesale murder of the guests at the banquet given Archbishop George W. Mundelein at the University club Thursday night were in the hands of police and club. The 100 prominent guests at the banquet who became violently ill after eating the soup served, were all recovering today, but their sudden illness was the subject of a rigid inquiry.

"There is no doubt," said N. J. Doherty, manager of the club, "that the poisoning of the banquet guests was the result of the plot of a single man to kill the hundreds at the tables. We know who the man is and we have found a well equipped laboratory in his quarters, including hundreds of vials of deadly poisons of a dozen varieties. We expect his arrest tonight."

Doherty also said that the literature in the man's room included anarchistic propaganda and I. W. W. pamphlets.

He said the receptacles in which the poison was brought to the University club kitchen were found only partly emptied. His theory is that the poisoner was interrupted before he completed his plan, and that this accounted for the fact that only part of the guests became ill, instead of all being killed.

MACABEES AND LADY MACABEES ENTERTAIN

Two Hundred and Fifty Present at the Entertainment Given in Odd Fellows Hall Last Night.

The Macabees and Lady Macabees held a joint social and entertainment in the Odd Fellows' Hall Friday evening, there being about 250 present. It was the biggest thing of the kind that this order has given in years, and the program which follows was thoroughly enjoyed by the entire assemblage.

Words of Welcome.....A Maccabee
Response.....Vine Zeitler
Piano Solo.....Vergie Theresa Cupp
Recitation.....Edward Bleich
Song.....Edward McGowan
Song and Drill.....Lady Maccabees
Reading.....Wilda Hart
Scotch Songs.....Jas. Dougherty
Accordion Solo.....D. Raffetto
Solo.....Russell Hooks
"The Shot"—Count Ort O'Rourke, A Japanese.....J. S. Gray
Reading.....Anna Mae Dunkle
Piano Solo.....Ruby Lanham
"On the Way to Mandalay".....
.....Vergie Theresa Cupp
Song and Drill.....Lady Maccabees
Medley of Songs.....
.....J. H. Buttrey and J. P. Madden
Duet...Misses Mattie and Annie North
Recitation.....C. K. Gahagan

At the conclusion a luncheon was served.

EBERHART'S STORE NEWS

A beautiful new line of fancy patterns. Fancy rush and circular full moon veils, 50c to $1.25.

Fancy veiling, 25c and 50c yd.

The Spring numbers of the Home Fashion book and Pictorial fashion book, 25c and a free pattern.

Fancy novelty buttons, all shades for trimming purposes.—41

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE

In Zeitler's Hall, February 12. Dancing 9 to 12. Fifty cents per couple. Ladies free. Music by Graff Bros.—41tf.

KEENEST INTEREST IS SHOWN IN FIFTH OF THE UNION SERVICES

Rev. P. E. Burtt Delivers Strong Sermon---All Services in First M. E. Church.

OVERFLOW MEETINGS ARE POSSIBLE

The meeting at the First Presbyterian church last night was the largest and perhaps the most enthusiastic of the special union services yet held. The increase in attendance and interest throughout the week has been marked and encouraging to the pastors. The song service last night was fully up to the standard set earlier in the week. It is certainly an inspiration to hear a great audience sing the gospels songs. A duet "Jesus Will" was rendered very effectively by Rev. Burtt and Mr. Jenks and the union choir, in charge of Mr. Lynn, sang that great song "Crown Him King of Kings" for an offertory. Rev. Clark led in prayer and Rev. Weber read the Scriptures. Rev. Percy E. Burtt was the preacher of the evening.

The text was the 11th verse of the 2d chapter of Romans, "For there is no respect of persons with God."

A brief synopsis of his sermon follows: "God is no respecter of persons in the operation of his laws in the rectural world. The rain and sunshine, the favorable and unfavorable, the constructive and the destructive elements of nature apply, alike, to all classes of human beings. God is no respecter of persons in regard to the way people are born into the world. All men in the beginning of their lives are equal and have an equal chance to make good or fail. The same laws of personal character obtain in the lives of all human beings. God is no respecter of persons in his relation to violations of His laws. There can be no sin committed with the penalty that follows that sin according to the law of God. He that sows to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. Sin reacts on the life, both in the process of addition and subtraction. God is no respecter of persons in regard to human need and the hunger of the soul for God and His answer to that need. His love is the same for all, the founting for cleansing is free to all, the sacrifice of Christ is for all the world of sinful beings. God is no respecter of persons with regard to man's death. All must die. There is a sad and unclenchoy feature to death, but there need not. God has provided against it."

Mr. Burtt closed his sermon by repeating Tennyson's:

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.
Twilight and evening star,
And after that the dark:
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark.
For tho' from out our town of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

On Sunday afternoon there will be a mass meeting for men and boys over 14 in the First Methodist church at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. C. A. Borland, of DuBois, will give the address. Dr. Borland is a young man of facable and sterling manhood and every man will enjoy his address.

The Union choir will meet in the Methodist church at the close of the men's meeting on Sunday afternoon for a rehearsal. All the members of the church choirs are requested to be present.

All of the special union services will be held hereafter in the First Methodist church on West Mahoning street.

If an overflow meeting is necessary for Sunday night it will be provided for in a convenient place.

EVANGELISTIC BUDGET

Estimated expense	$400.00
Received to date	46.73
Needed	$353.27

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