

The Weather

UNSETTLED with showers Monday, except fair northwest portion; Tuesday fair north-west and clearing east and south.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

VOL. XLVII
No. 141

TACOMA, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1930

CITY 2 CENTS—ELSEWHERE 5 CENTS

The Tacoma Daily Ledger

Final Home
Edition

MYSTERY THWARTS PROBE IN 17 CARBONADO MINE DEATHS

Exclusive Ledger Photos of Carbonado Mine Disaster

SEALED, BLACKENED BODIES TELL STORY OF STARK DISASTER

Official Inquiry Fails to Reveal Cause of Catastrophe; Only Theories Advanced by Experts After Inspection of Death Chamber Where Lives Were Snuffed Out Instantly by Terrific Gas or Dust Explosion

THE CARBONADO DEAD

The official list of dead in the Carbonado mine disaster follows:

Sylvester Barker, 34, of South Prairie; married; three children.
John L. Bates, 31, of Carbonado; married; two children.
John E. Flood, 54, of Carbonado; married; four children.
Ray Glickin, 36, of Buckley; married; one child.
William Kennedy, 28, of Carbonado; single.
R. C. Luge, 32, of Carbonado; married; one child.
William E. McMurphy, 28, of Carbonado; married; one child.
L. B. O'Neal, 45, of Carbonado; married; five children.
John O'Leary, 52, of Carbonado; married; three children.
Alfred Parkin, 38, of Carbonado; married; three children.
Victor Pete, 31, of Carbonado; married; one child.
Thomas J. Shadley, 38, of Carbonado; single.
Dave Hughes, 42, of Carbonado; married; one child.
William Matson, 42, of Carbonado; married; two children.
Martin Sheridan, 46, of Carbonado; married; one child.
Edward Wall, 43, of Carbonado; married; one boy.
Phillip Fick, 32, of Fairfax; single.

While experts spent Sunday probing the 1,500-foot level of the Carbonado mine of the Pacific Coast Coal company to determine the cause of the explosion which snuffed out the lives of 17 miners late Saturday afternoon, the little mining village was wrapped in a mantle of silent grief. Seventeen sealed and blackened bodies, 16 of them gathered together in the morgue at Buckley, tell the story of the tragedy that came with terrible suddenness just an hour and a half after the mine's afternoon shift had descended to its work.

As the mine officials and the experts of the United States bureau of mines sought the cause, the residents of the little mining village, high in the foothills of the Cascades in eastern Pierce county, dealt with the results. In 17 homes the widows, children and parents of the victims endeavored Sunday to pierce the veil of uncertainty and sorrow that has descended between them and their future. From cottages to cottages went neighbors and friends trying to bring some measure of comfort to the stricken families.

FAIL TO DISCOVER CAUSE
The death toll of 17 represents every man working on the 20th level in the second level, where the blast occurred. There were four other men who were members of this crew, giving rise to early reports that 21 had perished, but they were not near the scene and on their way home at the disaster's cause.

After an investigation lasting all day, mine officials said they were unable to determine the cause of the explosion. They had no statement to make, implying that thorough searches were all that were obtained, but nothing to indicate the real cause.

N. D. Moore, president of the Pacific Coast Coal company which operates the mine, said: "We have nothing to hide; nothing to cover up. It is all a mystery. There are several conclusions that may be drawn but nothing that can be certain."

He said that two blast sets off by the miners in their work and that the first blast may have liberated gas that exploded with the second charge. Also, he said, the first blast may have caused an explosion of the dust mingling with air, but that these were only theories and could not be used as conclusive facts in naming the cause.

John G. Schuching, of the United States bureau of mines, said he was not in position to make a statement but admitted that the investigation failed to reveal the real cause which, he said, would never be known.

It was at 5:28 Saturday afternoon that frantic telephone messages from the depths of the mine brought first word that there had been a disaster underground. A heavy explosion had jolted the workers' feet and men felt above ground. Alarm signals were quickly sounded in all parts of the mine and all levels were emptied quickly.

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Women Face Bravely Grim Catastrophe

By LOUISE HUNT

Steadfast, the crowd of the miners. Staring with dry, hunkling eyes at the yawning shaft of the Pacific Coast Coal company mine at Carbonado, women folk of the 17 men killed in the levels of the earth Saturday night faced realization of the stark tragedy hanging eternally over the heads of those whose livelihood depends on the mines.

Little children, some of them whimpering, some of them wide eyed and motionless, some of them questioning, caught the measure of the women huddled together in groups for the comfort which comes with an understanding silence.

In the light of the moon, hidden at moments by storm-driven clouds, three horses loomed as grim specters at the mine entrance, waiting for their charred corpses of burials-wrapped bodies.

With but one exception the crowd, for hours drawn as though by a magnet to the top of the shaft, held emotions in abeyance and spoke in undertones of the catastrophe which had

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Heart-rending scenes attended the bringing out of the bodies of the 17 miners who lost their lives in an explosion at the Carbonado mine late Saturday. On the left above is shown two of the recovered bodies being drawn to the surface. By twos and threes the bodies were brought out on cars, up the same incline on which the men had descended to their work a few hours before the blast came. Many of the bodies were badly burned and all were wrapped in burlap before they were brought out. Right, above—A few of the relatives of the victims waiting for the recovery of the bodies of their loved ones. Stark tragedy entered the little Carbonado homes as a result of the blast. Below, center—Harry Bates of the Carbonado mine rescue team, whose heroism in entering the death chamber was tragically rewarded by the recovery of the body of his own brother, John L. Bates, one of the 17. The dead man's daughter Phyllis, 5 years old, is shown at his left. Harry Bates won the international mine rescue trophy in 1926 with a record never since equaled. On the right, below, are three of the officials who made an inspection of the mine yesterday seeking a cause of the blast. From left to right—H. A. Wilson, general manager of the Pacific Coast Coal company; George T. Wake, deputy mine inspector, and William K. Reese, chief state coal mine inspector. Other exclusive Ledger photographs of disaster will be found on page 2.

OFFICER IN L. A. SHOT TO DEATH

Patrolman Murdered After Phoning Police Station He Was "Staked Out on Boot-legger's Car"

LOS ANGELES, April 13.—(U.S.P.) Patrolman Peter Muller Jr. was found unconscious and fatally wounded early today at 11th and Flower streets in downtown Los Angeles. Less than 30 minutes previously he had phoned the Georgia street police station on that he was "staked out on a boot-legger's car."

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FEAR WOMAN BURIED ALIVE

Report Says Moisture Wiped From Her Face During Funeral

GRAYSON, Ky., April 13.—(U.S.P.) story that Mrs. Anne Vickers, 40, may have been buried alive two weeks ago, without the services of an undertaker, is to be investigated by a grand jury here tomorrow. On the assertions of two women who said they formerly employed her, that Mrs. Vickers was subjected to fainting spells and would remain in a state of coma for hours, Circuit Judge G. W. Wolford of Carter county announced he would convene a grand jury to make an investigation.

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RAILROAD PROMISES TO PAY TAXES, FREED

Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Property, Including Passenger Train, Three Locomotives and Trackage, Released Temporarily

AVON PARK, Fla., April 13.—(U.S.P.) Atlantic Coast Line railroad property, including a passenger train, three locomotives, motor and freight cars, and 48 miles of trackage, was released temporarily today from attachment made yesterday by Sheriff Oscar Wright, who levied for alleged unpaid taxes.

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DEFEND PARKER FOR HIGH COURT

Department of Justice Upholds Judge for His Injunction Decision

WASHINGTON, April 13.—(U.S.P.) With new opposition developing in the Senate to confirmation of Judge John J. Parker of North Carolina as an associate justice of the supreme court, the department of justice today issued a memorandum defending his decision in the injunction against the United Mine Workers.

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GAS GOES UP THIS MORNING

98 Per Cent of Dealers Reported United on Standard Price of 17 1-2 Cents Per Gallon Today

Tacoma motorists will start paying 17 1/2 cents a gallon for gasoline this morning. It was announced last night by R. E. Walton, secretary-treasurer of the Automotive Industries association which included all the gas dealers of the city.

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