

Twelve Men Caught When Stope Caves In Centennial Eureka

Rapping on Timber Indicates That Two May Be Removed Alive.-- No Hope For Others--Bodies Be- ing Removed But Rescue Work is Slow and Dangerous.

- ◆ Edward Allen
- ◆ Ed J Barrick
- ◆ Thomas Bottrell
- ◆ Earl D Brison
- ◆ John Hewson
- ◆ William Knipe
- ◆ John Knipe
- ◆ Bert Lossee
- ◆ Fred Sunquist
- ◆ Mike Rosa
- ◆ Jacob Pinterella
- ◆ Kurt Zerrod

A fearful accident—the worst in the history of the Tintic Mining District—took place at the Centennial Eureka mine yesterday afternoon at about three o'clock when a cave in occurred in what is known as the Oklahoma stope twelve men being buried beneath the debris.

Most of these men have undoubtedly lost their lives although there may be a chance of saving one or more as those who are handling the rescue work can hear the sound of someone rapping on the timbers.

Thirteen men were at work in that part of the mine and but one escaped. The men whose names are given above were caught in the avalanche of falling dirt timbers and rock and carried down to the bottom of the stope. Some bodies have already been recovered others may be taken out of the mine within the next few hours but it is thought that days—perhaps weeks—may pass before all are removed.

The accident which resulted in such a horrible loss of life took place at about three o'clock in the afternoon and in addition to bringing intense sorrow into scores of homes it casts a shadow of gloom over the entire city. Last night business was practically at a standstill—there was but one topic of conversation—and while the people of Tintic have read of similar accidents in the large mines of the country never before have they been brought face to face with such a calamity. Even the more hardened were scarcely able to control their feelings when the truth finally became known and when mothers and children commenced crowding to the entrance of the mine and with tearful faces depicting grief that is beyond description asked for information regarding their loved ones.

Many of those upon whom the accident will fall heaviest because it has taken from them a husband father or son were not in possession of the true facts last night—being of the opinion that there was a chance for most of the imprisoned men—but as the long hours of the night wore a way and the daylight ushered in another day hope gave way to despair and grief.

Gathered at the portal of the Holden Tunnel (which is the entrance to the Centennial Eureka mine) during the early hours of the night were several hundred people. The crowd was not entirely made up of sorrowing friends and relatives there being practically all of the company's employees and scores of men from other mines and all of these men were anxious to join the rescue parties that were being formed from

time to time. Only a few men could work to advantage however and in the selection of these men the mine officials secured those who were most familiar with the mine and who were able to handle the timbering work that was needed in order to keep the loose dirt in check. To have rushed into the stope with out this preliminary work would have meant the loss of additional lives.

Tappings Heard Today

The tapping on the timbers which was heard for the first time at about 2 o'clock this morning and which has continued at intervals throughout the day indicates that at least one and possibly two or three of the men are still alive and that they can be rescued.

Supt Mayberry of the Centennial Eureka in company with Supt L C Doity of the Bull on Becz mine (another property owned by the United States Co) have been underground a good portion of the day. They are confident that the men who have been rapping on the timbers will be taken out alive but they both state that it is a piece of work that may not be completed until late tonight. The air is undoubtedly good where these men are imprisoned otherwise they would not have lived for this length of time.

The rescue work is being carried on with all possible haste but the passage way that is being cut around the side of the caved stop must be timbered as the men advance.

It is impossible to communicate with the entombed men and consequently their names are not known.

From the location of the rapping Shift Boss McLain is inclined to believe that the noise is made by Jacob Pinterella, Mike Rosa or Kurt Zerrod or perhaps all three. This is purely a guess however.

Supt Mayberry is now working toward but one end—the recovery of the men who are yet alive—and when this has been accomplished further efforts will be made to reach the bodies that are undoubtedly in the bottom of the big stope.

Two Bodies Recovered

The bodies of William Knipe and John Hewson were the first to be recovered. These men seem to have been caught in the outer edge of the caved stope and consequently their bodies were soon located. The position in which the bodies were found would indicate that death was almost instantaneous. Both were quite badly bruised but no bones were broken. Death might possibly have resulted from suffocation.

While these bodies were first located at about eight o'clock in the evening it was after midnight before they could be taken out as it was a slow and dangerous task to remove the dirt and timber which partially covered them. The remains were sent to the Wallace Undertaking rooms and Hewson's body has since been removed to his home.

No Time Lost in Rescue Work

Immediately after the accident Supt Mayberry, Foreman Enund and Shift Boss McLain made a trip through the part of the stope that was still intact and the investigation that they were able to make led them to believe that there was little or no hope of any of the men being taken out alive. This did not prevent them from rushing the rescue work as rap-

idly as possible and there was general rejoicing when sounds of rapping indicated that all had not lost their lives.

But One Man Escaped.

John Wink one of the men who was working in the Oklahoma stope and who escaped uninjured is unable to throw much light upon the accident. He states that he was wheeling the ore from the stope to a chute a short distance away. Four men were working near him when the cave in took place. Their lights were blown out when the timbers first gave way and later there was a deafening crash. Wink was facing the exit from the stope through which he had been wheeling dirt and he ran toward the chute. He thought that the other four men were following him but it seems that in the darkness they were unable to find their way out. Wink made his way to the station and was later hosted out of the mine.

Squire Brooks Jr left the Oklahoma stope but a few seconds before the cave in and was on his way out to the station when he heard the crash of falling timber and rock. His brother-in-law Earl D Brison was among the men caught by the cave in. Brooks joined the party of miners who first took up the rescue work and remained in the mine until nine o'clock last night when this crew of men was relieved.

Many Willing to Assist.

Among the men who volunteered their services going into the mine shortly after 8 o'clock in the evening for the purpose of assisting in the rescue work were John Dove, W J Hancock, A W Boyer, Thomas Inch, William Mellow, Charles Weden, Andrew Johnson, Fred Erickson, Thomas Randall, William Clark and Vern Firth. S J Easterbrook, John Roberts, John Saari, Eric Grandberg, Fred Erickson, John Matson, James Strang, Squire Brooks Jr and many others whose names we have been unable to secure.

Most of these men are entirely familiar with that part of the mine in which the accident took place.

Notwithstanding the fact that the rescue work is very hazardous hundreds of men gathered at the portal of the Holden Tunnel and offered their services to Supt Mayberry. Scores of others from various parts of the district many of whom were not employees of the company phoned and expressed a willingness to take part in the work.

I J Barnard bookkeeper for the mine thanked these men for their thoughtfulness in offering to assist and at the same time explained the situation briefly stating that only a few men could be used to advantage. This small force which throughout the night did not exceed twenty men found it necessary to put in timbers to hold the dirt and rock in check before they could make much headway with their rescue work. This force was changed at regular intervals during the night and early morning fresh men replacing those who were tired and worn out.

Government Offers Rescue Car.

This morning a message was received from Denver offering the use of a United States Mine Rescue Car but it is quite evident that the car would be of little benefit to the Centennial Eureka company. These cars are designed primarily for rescue work in coal mines where the question of fresh air is an important one. The nearest rescue car is at Denver and it would take some little time to have it transferred to Eureka.

The Entombed Men

Edward Allen is a brother of City Marshal John Allen. He was 33 years of age and leaves a young wife and a baby born but a few months ago. Mrs Allen was formerly Miss Nora McKate.

Ed J Barrick was born in England 31 years ago and came to America in 1910 locating at Bisbee, Arizona where he followed mining until coming to Eureka about four months ago. He had worked at different properties in the Tintic district but last Saturday morning was his first regular shift at the Centennial Eureka. A brother who lives at Bisbee is the only near relative in this country.

Thomas Bottrell was a native of England being 28 years of age. He has followed mining here in Tintic for the past six or seven years but it was his first shift at the Centennial Eureka mine. He is survived by his wife and two children—a boy and a girl—and also by his mother Mrs Ellen Bottrell.

Bert Lossee was 33 years of age and unmarried. He has been living in Tintic for over ten years working as a timberman during the greater part of that time. He served one term as president of the Tintic District Miners Union and at the last election he was re-elected a treasurer of this organization. Mr Lossee's father lives at Benjamin a number of other relatives several of whom are former residents of this district are living in various parts of the state. Three brothers Isaac, Ephraim and Jack Lossee are thought to be at Delta and a sister is making her home at Payson.

Ired Sunquist was 43 years of age. He came to America from Finland about twenty years ago and for the past fourteen years has followed mining in this camp. He was married and has a wife and five small children.

Mike Rosa is a native of Italy but he has made his home here in Tintic for several years. He has a wife and two daughters living at Ozegna, Italy and other relatives are also living in that country. Two brothers John and Felix Rosa are residents of this city. Mike Rosa was about 43 years of age.

Kurt Zerrod came to America from Germany many years ago and shortly after his arrival in Utah he

(Continued on last page)

Twelve Caught By Cave in Centennial

(Continued from page on)

took up his residence at American Fork later moving to this city. He has a wife and seven small children.

Earl D. Brison moved his wife and baby to Eureka from St. George less than a month ago. It was his second shift at the Centennial Eureka mine although he had worked there a year ago. Brison is 22 years of age and his wife was formerly Miss Emma Brooks, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Squire Brooks. They have one child. Brison's parents are residents of St. George, Utah.

Jacob Pinterella is 55 years of age and has a wife and five children. He is an old timer here in Tintic but he was absent from the camp for a number of years during which time he resided in the mining districts of Colorado. He returned two years ago.

John Hewson was born in England. He was about 30 years of age and leaves a wife and one child. He has lived in Eureka for about four years and during the greater part of that time he has been employed at the Centennial Eureka mine.

John and William Knipe are also natives of England. They followed mining in Tintic a few years ago and then went to British Columbia. After working in the mines there for some time they returned to Eureka. This was about two months ago and since that time they have been at the Centennial Eureka mine. They have no relatives in this country although a sister is living in England.

Eight of the twelve men were married, their names being Edward Allen, Tom Pottrell, John Hewson, Earl D. Brison, Fred Sunquist, Mike Rosa, Jacob Pinterella and Kurt Zirroid. The four single men are Edward Barrick, William and John Knipe and Bert Lossee.

Stope Was Well Timbered

The Oklahoma stope was one of the largest in the mine. Work in this stope commenced about two years ago and since that time an immense tonnage has been removed. The bottom of the stope was about 35 feet above the 1600 level and the top of it more than 200 feet above this point.

(Like all of the large stopes of the Centennial Eureka mine it was very thoroughly timbered, the ground being in such condition that additional timbers were put in in order to more thoroughly protect the workings.)

The cave in evidently came without warning. H. E. McLain, the shift boss, was through that part of the mine but a short time previous to the accident and states that everything appeared to be in the usual condition. Supt. Mayberry was also in the Oklahoma stope earlier in the day and saw nothing wrong.

A tremendous amount of ore and dirt intermingled with timbers now fill the lower part of the Oklahoma stope. That entrance to the place where the majority of the bodies should be found will be difficult to admit by the mine officials. It may be necessary to tap the stopes from the bottom and draw off the debris and this is at best a slow process of clearing the stope. Days and perhaps weeks may elapse before all the bodies are found.

The men who are attempting the rescue of the entombed miners changed shifts at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Those who came out of the mine at 4 state that their signals, made by pounding on the timbers and air pipe, have been answered throughout the day in fact they can get a reply to any signal given. It is hardly probable that the men will be rescued before midnight tonight or early tomorrow morning.