

m. Journal

Wed. Nov. 3, 1926

51 men trapped at 11:30 in 3rd.

Lead about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of mine shaft,
Duckranne & H2O

Left pit 300 X 200 ft. Dropped

600 ft. to bot. water level & moved
along to shaft....

Shaft 1,060 ft. deep -

Filled to 234 below.

Nov. 4, 1926 issue.

Recent heavy rains = Swamp full
mi ---

7 bodies recovered ---

Entirely stripped of clothing by force

of water & mud -- Bodies mangled,

with arms & legs broken ---

Bodies found in escape tunnels --

evidently pushed along after
death ---

Welfred Wells, 23, was working
with 3 companions on 2nd level ---
near shaft. When he heard rumble he
ran to shaft Climbed 800 ft. in
10 minutes, ~~boots~~ with water boiling
at his heels, wetting his boots ---

40 married ---

3 pairs of brothers & 3 fathers
& sons ---

Few minutes before cave 5 miners
had come up from 3rd level to
eat dinner --- Reported heard
low rumble like thunder and
gale-like draft of air blew out
carbide torches on their miners caps -
They ate & went down the shaft 400
feet & encounter water, lamps blown
out, barely got back.

150 men = 2 shifts, day & night

186 ft from surface

Nov. 5

Thought one in pump - home alive -

Air line broken. - Peter Duroche

100 x 40 by 18 ft high -

Water tight -

Water down 400 ft.

Lake in place of swamp.

Jangle of huge boulders &
crossed timbers block recovery of
bodies...

Also Will's story on P. 5

Rutherford Wilfred Wilks

"Low rumbling & blast of air.

~~Reacts~~ Rocks & mud spraying
down as he climbed. = 3 miners in
cage heard rumble, went down &
heard blast lifted cage 4 feet

13 - - on 1st level
16 - - on 2nd. "
rest - - on 3rd. "

Nov. 6

Terrific pressure of air, water &
mud acted as a piston would
kill man before debris reached
them - -

Nov 8 - Markee found
Ladder broke off below wills

Nov 10 - wills
Kirby, Jr. found = Belvine
broken air - line pipe burst
down shaft broke ladder

The men were
rather silent
this morning--

It had rained steadily for 2 weeks.

On a rainy Wednesday morning in October the ^{miners on the} day shift of the Holmes - Becker mine congregated ~~at~~ in the changing room or "dry" to ~~put on~~ put on their ^{or} stained miners' clothes, preparatory to going underground for the day's work... It was one of those dull soggy fall days and less than fifty sixty of a normal.

~~After~~ after
From seven a. m. ~~on~~ the miners on the day
shift of the Holmes - Becker mine ~~gathered~~ began
gathering in the changing room or "mine" "dry" to put
on their ore-stained miners' clothes, getting ready to
go underground for the day's work. It was a rainy
Wednesday morning in October. The men were
rather silent this morning. Those miners' that were
changed stood staring out of the windows of the dry