

M. Journal

~~WED.~~ Nov. 3, 1926

51 men trapped at 11:30 am 3rd.

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

Left pit 300 X 200 ft. Dropped

600 ft. to bed outlet level & moved  
along to shaft....

Shaft 1,060 ft. deep -

Filled to 234 below.

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Nov. 4, 1926 rain.

Recent heavy rains = Swamp full  
in ---

Ø 7 bodies recovered - -

Entirely stripped of clothing by force  
of water & mud -- Bodies mangled  
with arms & legs broken --

Bodies found in escape tunnels --  
probably pushed along after  
death - - -

Wilfred 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, ~~boat~~ with water boiling  
at his back, wetting his back --.

40 married ---

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

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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 & encountered water, lamps blown  
out, barely got back.

150 men = 2 shifts day & night  
186 ft from surface

Nov. 5

Thought one in pump - house alive -  
Air line broken. - Peter Duroche  
 $100 \times 40$  by 18 ft high -

Water tight -

Water down 400 ft.

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Lake in place of swamp.  
Tangle of huge boulders &  
crossed timbers block recovery of  
bodies ...

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Also Wills story on p. 5

Rutherford Wilfred Wills

"Low rumbling & blast of air.

~~Roars~~ Rocks & mud spraying  
Same as he climbed: = 3 miners in  
cage heard tremble, went down &  
heard blast lifted cage 4 feet

13 -- on 1st level

16 -- on 2nd. "

rest -- on 3rd. "

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Nov. 6

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

them --

Nov 8

Ladder broke off below Wills  
mankee found

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Nov 10 - Wills

Kirby, Jr., found = Belvire  
broken air-line pipe hurt  
down shaft broke ladder

~~Jim Derby and his sea~~

It had rained nearly all that October =  
a thin,

beat an insistent tattoo on  
The rain dropped from the metal roof of the  
the changing house or mining "dry" of the Holmes  
Bucker mine. It dripped from the eaves into the puddles below in aches and rivulets and gathered in red  
hematite stained puddles on the path leading  
from the dry to the shaft which led to  
carried the men down into the  
mine workings far underground. It had  
rained nearly all of that October and the ground  
and functional

the path in front of Derby in pools where water stood shallowly like  
fresh blood, looking startlingly like pools of fresh blood.

The men were  
rather silent  
this morning

It had rained steadily for a week.

On a rainy Wednesday morning in October the day shift of the Holmes - Becker mine congregated in the changing room or "dry" to put on their 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.

~~totally after~~  
Shortly after seven A. M. 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