

The Salt Lake Tribune

Vol. 236, No. 80

Salt Lake City, Utah—Saturday Morning—December 22, 1964

Crews Find 13 Bodies in Wilberg Mine

By Mike Gorrell Tribune Staff Writer ORANGEVILLE, Emery County — Rescue crews discovered the bodies of 13 coal miners trapped deep within the fiery depths of Utah Power and Light Co.'s Wilberg mine near here Friday.

Further attempts to locate the remaining 14 were repeatedly rebuffed by flaring hot spots earlier in the day, but by nightfall rescuers were reportedly making headway deeper into the shaft as the fire was kept in check.

Four more dead were found Friday evening after rescue crews located the bodies of nine men early in the morning.

The nine were found about 200 feet from a tunnel confluence where the fire originated. The other four were situated about 300 feet to 400 feet beyond the point of the first discovery.

There was no word on the identities of the four late Friday. Twenty-six men and one woman were initially trapped Wednesday night, with the late now of 14 still unknown. The bodies of 13 known dead remain in the mine by order of federal mining authorities, giving priority to reaching the rest.

Hope was they had taken refuge in a chamber some 1,000 feet beyond the fire point, itself a mile into the mine.

Estimates varied on the length of time they believed the miners could survive, with the most optimistic projection five or six days.

Still, with rescue crews continually driven back by flare-ups earlier, Emery Mining Co. spokesman Bob Henric said late Friday, "Obviously, the more time we have to spend containing fires, the more it diminishes our chances."

His statement contrasted with the veiled optimism of the morning, when it appeared that the fire was under management, and rescuers

were able to inch their way deeper into the mine's belt.

At that time, Mr. Henric said fire crews had been successful at cooling hot spots and were discovering that at quality in the tunnel they think leads to the remaining miners was improving. "The fact that the situation is not really in bad shape is encouraging."

By day's end, company officials were forecasting a Saturday morning rescue attempt as "bright horizon for next year's economy."

The nine male bodies were discovered about 1 a. m., but relatives and friends weren't told until daylight, two hours later. "It is my only duty to announce that nine bodies were found."

operations. Dave Boscock, 41, Prace, time manager; Alex Poole, 21, Prace, a long-wall section foreman; Vic Crispin, 23, Huntington, general mine foreman; Tom Leroy Milton Hersh, 40, East Carbon, service foreman; Philip Bell, 20, Orangeville, long-wall coordinator; Randall P. Curry, 31, Castle Dale, a long-wall mechanic; Roger G. Ellis, 28, Ferron, a loading machine operator; and Lee Johnson, 24, Ferron, a mechanic.

The first nine bodies were discovered about 1 a. m., but relatives and friends weren't told until daylight, two hours later. "It is my only duty to announce that nine bodies were found."

in one tunnel. We express our deepest sympathy in support for the families and loved ones. But our rescue mission continues," Mr. Henric said.

Their identities were not released until late afternoon, as company officials spent the day alerting families spread throughout the rural communities of Emery and Carbon counties.

"They were well-learned men," Mr. Henric said. "They were among the top operations leadership at Emery Mining. [I have] a deep sense of loss."

264 Violations In 2 Years at Wilberg Mine

Special to The Tribune ORANGEVILLE, Emery County — During the past two years, there have been 264 separate safety violations at the Wilberg Mine near here.

From the government's point of view, however, the mine is "moving in the right direction," Frank O'Gorman, spokesman for the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, Washington, D.C., said Friday.

Mr. O'Gorman, responding to a question about the Wilberg's safety reputation, said the mine "had an accident record in 1962 that was three times the national average. We were very unhappy. It has dropped significantly [since]," he said.

As for characterizing the mine's safety performance, Mr. O'Gorman said, "We would be extraordinarily unhappy in 1962 and very happy at the direction it's moving in 1964. They had no fatalities up until this year."

Thirteen miners are known dead in the Wilberg since five broke out Wednesday night. Another 14 are trapped inside. The mine is owned by Utah Power and Light Co., but operated by Emery Mining Co.

The miners were reportedly pursuing a production record for long-wall mining, an activity apparently sanctioned by the company, when the accident occurred.

Although the accelerated rate was in force, Bob Henric, a spokesman for Emery Mining, said safety remained a priority.

"If they were trying to set a record, we feel perfectly comfortable with it," he said.

See Page 2, Column 4

Families Shattered

Utah Mining Towns Suffered the Agony Of Waiting, Now Know Pain of Death

By Mike Gorrell Tribune Staff Writer HUNTINGTON — For nearly 36 hours, the communities that dot the face of Emery and Carbon counties knew the agony of waiting. Now they know the pain of death.

Death strikes hard on small mining communities like those in Prace, Huntington, East Carbon, Castle Dale, Orangeville, Ferron, Scofield, particularly when the action is sudden and takes many in its path.

Families are shattered and the entire community is shaken. Many have lost a loved one, good friend or a well-known acquaintance.



Francy Handley, chairwoman of American Red Cross, burst into tears as she took food to families of the trapped miners.

Fed Cuts Lending Rate; Factory Orders Swell

By Martin Crottingham Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON — Orders to factories for durable goods posted their biggest gain in more than four years, an 8.3 percent November increase said by the Reagan administration today on Friday as a "bright horizon for next year's economy."

And in a move that is likely to spell stronger economic growth in coming months, the Federal Reserve Board announced it was cutting its lending rate to banks and other financial institutions by 1/4 percentage point to 4 percent.

The move, the second reduction in a month, left the discount rate at its lowest level in six years. Analysts said the central bank was moving aggressively to ensure that the recent slowdown in growth does not turn into a recession. They predicted that interest rates, which have fallen about three percentage points since August, would drop further.

In the report on durable goods orders, the Commerce Department attributed more than half the gain to a 20.4 percent increase in defense orders, the biggest jump in demand for military hardware in a decade.

With the defense surge taken out, durable orders still rose a healthy 2.3 percent — far better than recent months.

At the White House, deputy press secretary Martin Fitzwater said, "The economy is growing. People are confident. New orders for products are being placed to meet demand. And it is going to be a bright horizon for next year's economy."

New orders for durable goods — items expected to last three or more years — are closely watched for the signals they provide about production and employment in manufacturing industries in coming months.

The November gain, which was the largest since an 8.8 percent increase in October, followed declines of 2.4 percent in October and 2.3 percent in September. It put total orders at \$104 billion, up from \$96.1 billion in October.

Analysts worried when orders suffered back-to-back declines, analysts worried that the sharp slowdown in economic growth since July could be threatening another recession.

However, those fears have eased with a variety of statistics showing a rebound in November. Unemployment fell to 7.2 percent, its biggest decline since June. Retail sales were up sharply and overall economic growth for the fourth quarter is being

estimated at 2.8 percent — an improvement over the sluggish 1.4 percent from July through September.

"This suggests that the worst of the slowdown is ending and that the growth recession is old news," said Allen Suss, chief economist for Stratton Lehman-American Express.

Economists portrayed the slump as a period whose growth was as sluggish that it could not keep momentum.

Frankfurter, an economist with Data Resources Inc., said, "There is no doubt we have come back from the very weak performance of the last summer and early fall. But it is still not certain that we can sustain this expansion."

Butter said it would depend on the success of the Christmas selling.

Soviet Defense Chief Dies of Heart Attack

By Kevin Schmeemann New York Times News Writer MOSCOW — Marshal Dmitri F. Ustinov, a designer of the Soviet Union's modern military machine and defense minister since 1961, died Thursday after a two-month illness, the official Soviet press agency Tass announced Friday.

The death of the 74-year-old marshal left vacant one of the most powerful posts in the Soviet hierarchy, and deprived the Politburo of a senior member whose power ranged far beyond the Defense Ministry.

No successor was immediately named, and the chief questions on whether the Kremlin would name the Defense Ministry leadership to a professional military man, or name a civilian like Ustinov.

Under the previous Soviet constitution, Ustinov's death was announced first not by Tass but by Mikhail S. Gorbachev, widely presumed to be the successor.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Western diplomats expected an immediate change in the Kremlin's policies on arms control, and specifically on the meeting between Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko scheduled for next week.

The diplomats noted that plans for the meeting were shelved after Ustinov became ill, and that his successor would probably represent the interests of the military-industrial complex as Ustinov did.

Early speculation about a successor centered on Gregory V. Romanov, the former Leningrad military commander and the Politburo member named to head Ustinov's funeral arrangements.

See Page 2, Column 4

Coming Sunday... Floors of the Holy Night... Quits for Peace... Santa Fe's Quiet Christmas

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page. Includes On The Inside, Today's Forecast, and other sections.

For those whom death does not greet in the living room, the tragedy of the Wilberg mine fire has left its reach out and help, hindered by an inability to know precisely what to say or do. In individual ways they have reached out to help the bereaved and the uncertain deal with the terror of the moment and set for these is still a future.

In Huntington Friday across reminders of those carried out to the city or stricken towns our residents do their best to console neighbors and save their own wounds.

The Old Homestead cafe north of Huntington, Cathy Everett served tables as she has done for eight years. But these past two days, several of her regular customers, guys whom she'd joked with for years, weren't there.

"It's so hard here because people here are so close. Everybody knows everybody else. I'm from Arizona and I've never seen anything like it. How close people are," she said. Cathy and the other folks at the cafe have been preparing sandwiches and food baskets for the rescue crews. Little efforts like that help restore the torn fibers of the community. They have to. "This is the worst I've seen here," she said.

Led by their bishops, members of the Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints responded with alacrity and heartfelt generosity. And on Friday, Father Gerald Lynch, pastor of Notre Dame Catholic Church in Prace and Monsignor Sam Rafael in Huntington, were offered to help the bereaved families sequestered at Emery Mining headquarters.

It was a challenge that visibly shook the priest. He said, "People don't ask why."

"I don't know what the answer to that is."

He could only urge the people to maintain hope. "I just reaffirm their faith that God is there, with us no matter what happens." He prayed the residents of the area, saying they are tied to the land and pursue simple lifestyles.

"They're simple and beautiful people always looking out for each other," he said.

Then there was Francy Handley, the widow of the man whose wife and two children were trapped in the Wilberg Mine are going through the last one or two years ago to a mining town.

God and Government

I often think, this sad treatment of a poor man's Christmas, makes me think of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The Lord God and God died with sorrow long ago in our time."

That brief, prayerful ritual goes each session of a court whose scheduling calendar of church-state cases is under way to determine the bounds

Church-State Cases Flood the Supreme Court

of religious manifestations in America. It is an unpropitious, hardly promised liturgical going on in hundreds of lower courts across the country, involving businesses, schools, churches, individuals, state and municipal institutions.

At stake in the broad-scale legal confrontation — a variety of work and circumstances — is the extent to which religion can be practiced or expressed, in consonance with public institutional life.

Already the court has accepted seven church state cases for decision this term. Yet it takes up only a small fraction of the myriad cases across the country.

They vary from a case far more controversial challenge to an Air Force rule prohibiting an Orthodox Jewish official.

The preparation of such cases is at several levels," says attorney Jeffrey J. Sommay, head of the legal affairs department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. "They've increased radically over the last decade, and peaked up an even bigger head of steam in the last three years."

At stake in the broad-scale legal confrontation — a variety of work and circumstances — is the extent to which religion can be practiced or expressed, in consonance with public institutional life.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Last of Five

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Coming Sunday

Floors of the Holy Night... Quits for Peace... Santa Fe's Quiet Christmas

Today's Chuckle

Mayflower a tiny ship on which several million pilgrims came to America in 1620.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.

Ustinov shared his marshal's uniform only after being named to the Defense Ministry by Leonid I. Brezhnev, and was regarded as a military technocrat rather than a soldier.