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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
DIVISION OF COAL MINE INSPECTION

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BUREAU OF MINES
I & E Statistics Branch

JAN 20 1971
Referred to

REPORT OF FATAL COAL MINE ROOF-FALL ACCIDENT
SUNNYSIDE NO. 3 MINE
KAISER STEEL CORP.
SUNNYSIDE, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

code

12/9/70

December 9, 1970

by
Tony Schubert
Federal Coal Mine Inspector

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Originating Office - Bureau of Mines
P. O. Box 15077, Denver, Colorado 80215
A. C. Moore, Chief, Division of Coal Mine
Coal Mine

Donald Herrera, propma

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5:15 A.M.

190 reg

REPORT OF FATAL COAL MINE ROOF-FALL ACCIDENT
SUNNYSIDE NO. 1 MINE
KAISER STEEL CORPORATION
SUNNYSIDE, CARBON COUNTY, UTAH

A

December 9, 1970

by

Tony Gabossi
Federal Coal Mine Inspector

INTRODUCTION

This report is based on an investigation made in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act (66 Stat. 692; 30 U.S.C. Secs. 451 - 483).

Donald Herrera, age 24, was killed as a result of being struck by a fall of roof at approximately 5:15 a.m., Wednesday, December 9, 1970, in the Sunnyside No. 1 Mine. The accident occurred at the face of the 13 left longwall section. Herrera is survived by his widow and two dependent children. Herrera had approximately four months' mining experience, all at this mine, as a prop man, which includes shoveling behind the plow as it travels across the longwall face.

The writer was notified of the accident at 6:30 a.m., December 9, 1970, by the company's safety engineer, and an investigation was started and completed the same day.

Information for this report was obtained from statements of company officials and employees, and from an investigation at the scene of the accident.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Sunnyside No. 1 Mine, located at Sunnyside, Utah, is opened by seven slopes, three shafts, two drifts and a 1,700-foot rock tunnel into the Upper and Lower Sunnyside coalbeds, which range from 5½ to 14 feet in thickness, respectively. A total of 265 men was employed; 190 worked underground on three coal-producing shifts, and produced an average of 6,500 tons daily. Coal was mined with continuous mining machines and two longwall shearing machines. Continuous miners were used to develop the longwall sections. Pillar extraction is accomplished by longwall mining, a modification of the open-end method.

The 13 left longwall mining section was developed by a block system. Entries in sets of two are driven by continuous miners 20 feet wide on each end of the 525 foot longwall face. These entries are used as intake and return airways for the longwall section.

The immediate roof overlying the Upper Sunnyside coalbed consisted of shale, and the main roof was sandstone. Four to 12 inches of coal adjacent to the shale roof is left to help support the roof on the longwall face. During development of the longwall section, roof bolts were installed in accordance with the approved Bureau of Mines roof-control plan. The roof at the longwall face was supported by 3-legged chocks for a total support of 450 tons per chock. There were 120 chocks along the face in this section. At the time of the accident, the roof was being matted and blocked with steel mats and wooden planks above the chocks for the distance of approximately 65 feet from the tailpiece end of the longwall.

The investigation committee consisted of:

Company Officials and Employees

Frank Markosek	General Superintendent
John Palacios	Superintendent No. 1 Mine
John Tallerico	Superintendent No. 2 Mine
Art Van Wagenen	Mine Foreman No. 1 Mine
John Schmidt	Safety Engineer
John Pappas	Assistant Safety Engineer
John Westbrook	Longwall Foreman
Pete Ardohain	Longwall Foreman

United Mine Workers of America

Arnando Tollis	President
William Llewelyn	Safety Committee
Neldon Oliver	Safety Committee
Rulon Nielson	Safety Committee-Vice President

The Industrial Commission of Utah, Safety Division

Frank Ularich	Mine Inspector
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United States Bureau of Mines

Tony Gabossi	Federal Coal Mine Inspector
Evert Winder	Federal Coal Mine Inspector Trainee
Danny Bordea	Federal Coal Mine Inspector Trainee

0152

Data concerning the accident are shown in the sketch.

The general management structure for the Sunnyside No. 1 Mine consisted of a general manager, general superintendent, superintendent, mine foreman, and a section foreman for each section. A division safety engineer and one assistant safety engineer are employed for the overall direction of the safety program for the three mines operated by the company, including this mine.

A P.B.R. inspection was completed April 23, 1970, and weekly spot-check inspections are being made in accordance with Section 103(i) of the Act.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

On the day of the accident, Herrera (victim) entered the mine at midnight, accompanied by ten men, including the section foreman, and proceeded to the 13 left longwall section. Normal mining operations were conducted without incident until 5:15 a.m. The shearer had made the cut (27 inches) up the longwall face and returned to the bottom, plowing the loose coal into the conveyor pan in order to move the conveyor pan and chocks for the next shearing cycle. During the plow cycle, workmen follow the plow down the face, shoveling loose coal, so the pan and chocks can be moved for the next shear. The shearer had reached the bottom of the longwall face. Herrera and two other men were cleaning coal and preparing to remove the plow when a bounce occurred, causing a roof fall 15 feet long, 36 inches wide, and 44 inches high. A large piece of coal and rock (15 inches of coal, 22 inches of rock, 7 feet long, 36 inches wide, wedge-shaped to 14 inches) struck Herrera, inflicting crushing injuries to his chest and head.

The section foreman, located between chocks 20 and 30, heard the bounce and, observing a cloud of dust in suspension, immediately went to the bottom. A quick observation indicated one man missing. Help was summoned immediately, and Herrera was removed from under the fallen rock. First-aid was administered at the scene of the accident, and when no sign of life was evident, Herrera was placed on a stretcher and transported to the surface. He was then taken by ambulance to the Carbon Hospital, Price, Utah, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

A bounce released the rock and coal from a slip running parallel to the longwall face between the chocks and face.

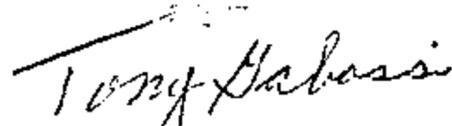
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bureau of Mines has no recommendations at this time; however, the company plans to make extensions from unused chocks to extend inby the end of chocks now being used, which will include the shear along the longwall face, in order to provide additional roof support.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The cooperation of company officials and employees, members of the United Mine Workers of America, and representative of the Industrial Commission of Utah, Safety Division, during this investigation is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Gabossi
Federal Coal Mine Inspector

ADDITIONAL ROOF SUPPORT THROUGH THE USE OF STEEL MATS AND PLANK FOR 15 CHOCKS UP FROM LOW RIB.

LONGWALL FACE

CAVE AREA WAS A WEDGE SHAPE 15' LONG, 3' WIDE, AND 44" HIGH WITH 12" COAL ON THE BOTTOM, 22" ROCK IN THE MIDDLE, AND 10" COAL ON TOP.

CAVED AREA

VICTIM WAS FOUND AT THIS POINT PINNED BENEATH A 7'x3'x14" CHUNK OF ROCK AND COAL LOCATED 25' UP FROM THE LOW RIB.

DOTTED AREA CAVED FOR AN ADDITIONAL 9' AFTER VICTIM WAS REMOVED.

450 TON CHOCKS ON 4 1/2' CENTERS

FACE IS 3610' FROM SLOPE BELTWAY

SHEARER

AREA ROOF BOLTED WITH STEEL MATS.

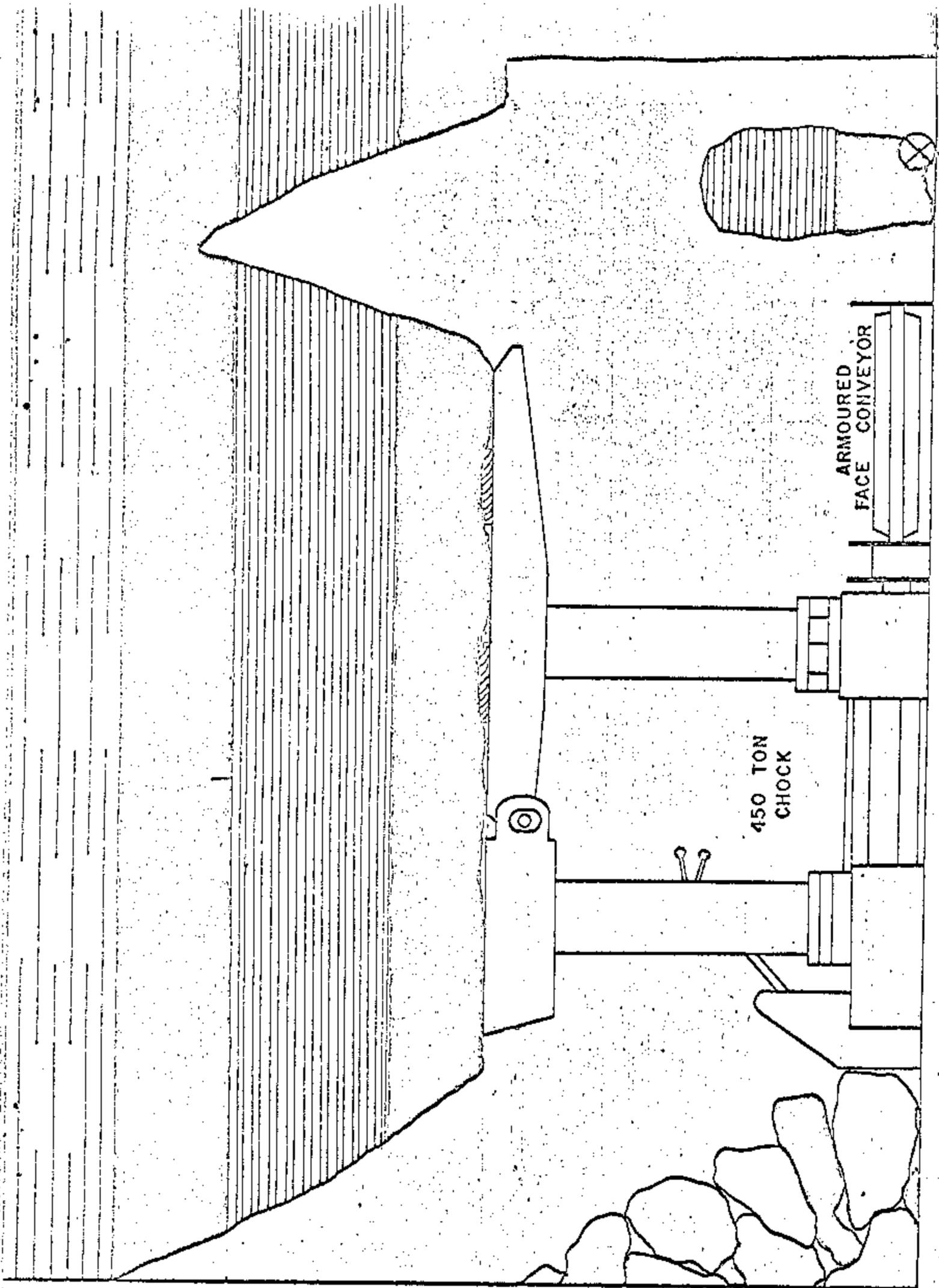
HYDRAULIC SUPPORTS

30" ARMoured CONVEYOR

ACCIDENT FATAL TO DON HERRERA
1345 LEFT LONGWALL - NO. 1 MINE
7:55 A.M. - DECEMBER 9, 1970

KAISER STEEL CORP.
SUNNYSIDE MINES

SCALE 1" = 10'



VICTIM WAS FOUND HERE

ACCIDENT FATAL TO DON HERRERA
 1345 LEFT LONGWALL - NO. 1 MINE
 5:15 A.M. - DECEMBER 9, 1970

KAISER STEEL CORP.
 SUNNYSIDE MINES

SCALE 1" = 2'

DATE 12-9-70