

Premature Blast

Kills Dam Miner

9/1/32

A premature explosion is believed to have caused the death of Ezra H. Gammill, 43, miner, yesterday afternoon. Death followed several hours after he was mutilated by a blast which occurred a short distance downstream from the lower portals of tunnel one.

Inquest into Gammill's death was held this morning in Boulder City by Justice Frank M. Ryan.

Gammill was loading a hole, having placed a stick of powder in the hole, and was putting a primer into the hole, according to fellow workers who testified at the hearing.

The explosion occurred at about 3:45 p. m., and Gammill was the only man injured. His skull was fractured, the lower portion of both his forearms were fractured. Pieces of wood taken from his mutilated face and body were believed to have been parts of his tamping stick.

The crew was working widening the road a short distance downstream from the blacksmith shop.

The injured man was rushed to the Boulder City hospital, where he died about three hours later, death caused by skull fracture and shock.

He is survived by his mother, in Fairland, Oklahoma; two nephews on the job, one of whom is Paul Wilson. He was single, and was born in Tennessee. He had been on the job about a year, giving his former residence as Mountain View, Arkansas.

Witnesses included Robert Hadley, shifter; Martin Breen and Andrew Bateman, workers, and Dan Costello, of Six Companies insurance staff.

The coroner's jury comprised J. J. Smith, Carl Carlson and Ed Bechtel, all of Las Vegas.

The hearing was concluded in Las Vegas.