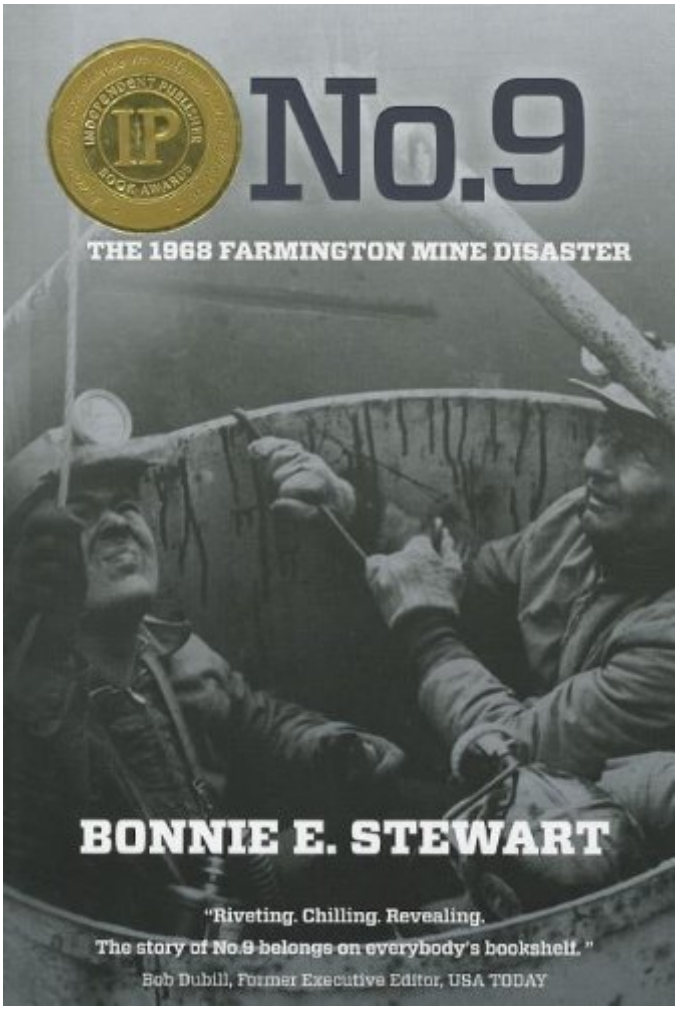
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

No.9: The 1968 Farmington Mine Disaster



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

Ninety-nine men entered the cold, dark tunnels of the Consolidation Coal CompanyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s No.9 Mine in Farmington, West Virginia, on November 20, 1968.Ã Â Some were worried about the condition of the mine. It had too much coal dust, too much methane gas. They knew that either one could cause an explosion. What they did not know was that someone had intentionally disabled a safety alarm on one of the mineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ventilation fans. That was a death sentence for most of the crew. The fan failed that morning, but the alarm did not sound. The lack of fresh air allowed methane gas to build up in the tunnels. A few moments before 5:30 a.m., the No.9 blew up.Ã Â Some men died where they stood. Others lived but suffocated in the toxic fumes that filled the mine. Only 21 men escaped from the mountain.Ã Â No.9: The 1968 Farmington Mine Disaster explains how such a thing could happenÃ¢â ¬â •how the coal company and federal and state officials failed to protect the 78 men who died in the mountain. Based on public records and interviews with those who worked in the mine, No.9 describes the conditions underground before and after the disaster and the legal struggles of the minersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ widows to gain justice and transform coal mine safety legislation.

Book Information

File Size: 5274 KB

Print Length: 288 pages

Publisher: West Virginia University Press; 1st Edition edition (October 1, 2012)

Publication Date: October 1, 2012

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006J5PETW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #500,458 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #32 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Earth Sciences > Prospecting & Mining #32 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil > Environmental > Mining #189 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering >

Customer Reviews

No. 9 is another work with a strong local connection. It also gives me yet another lesson in thinking before criticizing.West Virginia produces a significant portion of coal for the United States. It has done so for about 120 years. Likely, that will also be the case for the next 50 years.West Virginia history is checkered with mass casualty mine accidents. (Many more miners have suffered injury or death from individual accidents, and that’s a shame - both that they suffer and that it takes a lot of simultaneous deaths for anybody to notice industrial dangers.)One of the "big dogs" of the coal business in West Virginia is Consolidation Coal Company (pronounced "con-SOL"). One of Consol’s larger mines of the 20th century was No. 9 at Farmington, Marion County, which is about 7 miles from my home.On 20 November 1968, 99 men were working the cat-eye (midnight) shift. At 5:30 AM, the west side of the mine exploded. In ensuing days, there were more explosions. 21 miners escaped. 78 died. Of those, 19 still remain in the now sealed mine.I know several the people from whom author Stewart got her information and many of the players on both sides of the litigation. And so, I was briefly prepared to hold Stewart’s biased conclusions to my own, well, biased conclusions. Okay, that’s darn poor practice for a reviewer or for anyone who wants the name of being "thoughtful."Stewart strongly condemns Consol for safety violations which likely led to the explosion. All of those were related to the accumulation of explosive materials in the mine.I think what bothered me at first was the deep stridency of the author’s anti-industry prose before there was any factual development. But then, this is a book and not a courtroom. As she develops a story in her own way, author Stewart recites a great deal of the objective evidence to the effect that this accident was much more preventable than most and that any reasonable manager should have foreseen the great risk of a catastrophic explosion.Coal dust, particularly when suspended in air, is explosive. For that matter, something that we would think is as innocuous as wheat dust is fairly explosive. In the coal mines, coal dust should be controlled by applying rock dust (crushed limestone), by spraying water where equipment is working and just by cleaning up. Of course, none of that directly produces coal.In addition, coal freely emits methane, which is the principal ingredient in natural gas. Stewart nicely explains why autumn and winter weather causes significantly increased methane levels in a coal mine. The exposed coal in No. 9 emitted something in the order of three million cubic feet of methane per day.Mine equipment runs on high-voltage electricity. Therefore, there are lots of potential ignition sources (sparks) in a mine. Stewart describes the condition of the electrical system in No. 9 as being slapdash at best, such as short cables having many splices in them. And so, the

"fire triangle" was complete, and as soon as the stars aligned, the mine was going to explode.Stewart found a "smoking gun" memorandum from the 1968 investigation. Mines are ventilated by huge fans on the surface which draw out the methane and draw in fresh air. The "ventilation plan" is critical to the operation of the safe mine. Coal mines have warning system so that if a ventilation fan goes down, there is an alarm so that it may be repaired very quickly or the mine evacuated. The investigator found that this alarm system on one of the four fans had been intentionally bypassed. Stewart also found records and pieced together witness statements which made it apparent that the fan with the disabled alarm had gone down a couple of hours before the explosion. And so, the very likely scenario is that the failure of the fan together with the miners inside not knowing about it led to an increased methane gas concentration which was ignited by some spark.Nobody can fault Stewart's research in the least. She describes them-UMW president Tony Boyle's self-aggrandizing and out-of-control behavior at Farmington and in the later Congressional investigations. Entirely by coincidence, about a month ago I was talking to a reporter who was there in 1968. He described to me Boyle's behavior nearly identically, albeit in more colorful language.There are places where the information in No. 9 could be clearer. The science as presented behind the flammability and explosivity of methane and coal dust is a bit fuzzy. An example is the explanation of the self ignition of cold dust. When it is in suspension, that is unlikely. But it really doesn't matter, because there were so many potential ignition sources in that mine.Also, the litigation is given somewhat short shrift. But if one thinks about it, that really doesn't detract from the book because the litigation never really addressed causation anyway.Stewart does hint at some impropriety because the doctor who was the Marion County coroner did not order autopsies. That's an understandable suspicion because Stewart probably lacked knowledge of a fact. West Virginia coroners do not have to be medical doctors. (Medical examiners do.) Dr. Koon was a podiatrist.Stewart well covers the Congressional investigation and passage of the 1969 federal coal mine legislation. She touches on the never-ending conflict between profit- convenience-driven shortcuts and efficiency-limiting regulations. What is less apparent, but equally true, is the inability of most proponents of either to see any of the others' view point.I especially admire that Ms. Stewart avoided graphic or macabre descriptions of the traumatic injuries to the miners. The only reason to have done so would have been to enhance No. 9's commercial appeal with a little bit of salacious sensationalism.Stewards dogged and exhaustive research shows clearly. This was not modern weak-tea Internet research. This was real, primary source research. Moreover, many of the people with whom Stewart spoke and at least some of the documents which she found would not have been available 20 years from now. For that, we owe Stewart our admiration and thanks. This is

especially impressive in that No. 9 probably won’t have a lot of commercial potential. The writer who slaps together a "tell-all" about some celebrity based on Internet snippets plus making things up in his/her own imagination is going to make a lot more money. Bonnie Stewart’s scholarship gives her a lot of dignity and authenticity.Five stars, no question.

I grew up at #9 in the 1950’s and 1960’s and I was a witness at both of the explosions of 1954 and 1968. I lost many freinds both times. I ended up working in the coal mines at Federal #1 at Grant Town Wv and Federal#2 at Blacksville WV. This book had my attention from the begining I recognized names and the actions of many had been told to me all along the history of this man made disaster. The greed and lack of following the safety rules still exist. It is up to the miner to fight still for his indivaul safety rights.The old company store still stands my mother worked there from the early 1950’s till the early 1970’s. I remember the miner strikes and all and was a small child that helped my Dad who at the time of the 1954 explosion was the company store manager. We had just left the lamphouse where we had been stocking the candy machines and returned to the store when the mine exploded. In 1968 we had the day off from school I had stayed up late listening to far away radio stations soooo I was going to sleep in but Dad came and woke me up. I told him "Pop there ain’t no school let me sleep" he said "Boy get up get down to the store the mine just blew up they may need your help down there" the first face that I saw was a classmate her father didn’t come home.So this book is very meaningful to me and it is well researched and written. I recommend it to anyone who has been around a coal mine.

Interesting read for a West Virginia native from coal country. Grandfather killed in a coal mine father-in-law almost.. Several friends with black lung. well worth thye time to read this one.

An excellent account of a very unfortunate day in West Virginia History. My family had a distant connection with this as we were building a water impoundment dam over the hill from the Llewellyn Portal, and one of our bulldozer operaters had a pocket watch narrowly miss his tractor, as it had been blown out of the shaft at the time of the explosion. Some of our drills were the first on the scene to try to get boreholes in to find the survivors and get them air.... too many times the corporations who run businesses like this will always err on the side of their stockholders and not on the side of the workers, we see it all too often today and forget that the cost of the world we live in is often the blood and the deaths of workers here and elsewhere in the world. 2o men are still in the bottom of that mine, and that is where they will await the trump at the end of time.A very good book

and well worth the read.....

I bought this book because my uncle was killed in the 1968 Farmington Number 9 mine disaster and I wanted to know more about the accident and the events leading up to it. The author did wonderful job preparing the reader with just enough background information to provide a good understanding of the events leading up to the eventful November day, without boring the reader with mindless facts. Her coverage of the eventful day was clear, concise and yet warmingly heartfelt. She took mountains of transcripts and documents and distilled them down to a compelling story of what that last day was like for the miners. I was particularly touched to read the last words that my uncle uttered over the radio just before the explosion. For me reading this book was a healing experience. I recommend this book to anyone who has a connection coal mining in general or the Farmington No. 9 disaster in particular.

Download to continue reading...

No.9: The 1968 Farmington Mine Disaster The Billionaire's Obsession: The Complete Collection Boxed Set (Mine For Tonight, Mine For Now, Mine Forever, Mine Completely) (The Billionaire's Obsession series Book 1) 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: St. Louis: Including Sullivan, Potosi, and Farmington Obsession Mine (Tormentor Mine Book 2) Last Man Out: The Story of the Springhill Mine Disaster Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery: A Review of the United States Disaster Assistance Framework Amazing World of Gumball Original Graphic Novel: Recipe for Disaster: Recipe for Disaster (The Amazing World of Gumball) SHTF Prepping: The Proven Insider Secrets For Survival, Doomsday and Disaster Preparedness (Prepper, Guide, Manual, Natural Disaster, Recovery, Catastrophe, ... Meltdown, Collapse, Emergency Book 1) Overlooked Disaster Preparation Tips: Learn The Most Ignored Disaster Preparation Tips You'll Need In Case Of An Emergency An Introduction to Architectural Theory: 1968 to the Present Robert Crumb: Sketchbook, Vol. 1, June 1964 - Sept. 1968 Gasser Wars: Drag Racing's Street Classics: 1955-1968 Charlotte Perriand: Complete Works. Volume 3: 1956 - 1968 Volvo-Penta Stern Drives, 1968-1991 (Seloc Marine Tune-Up and Repair Manuals) The Walt Disney Film Archives: The Animated Movies 1921-1968 Feminism Art Theory: An Anthology 1968 - 2014 Donald Judd: The Early Works 1955-1968 Clay's Tectonic Shift: John Mason, Ken Price, and Peter Voulkos, 1956-1968 Feminism-Art-Theory: An Anthology 1968-2000 Mexican American Mojo: Popular Music, Dance, and Urban Culture in Los Angeles, 1935Ã¢â ¬â œ1968 (Refiguring American Music)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help