

EVERETT H. GOODRICH OBITUARY

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By Rhonda Thacker Holton*

SERVICES HELD FOR LAST OF MINE VICTIMS

Funeral services for Everett Goodrich, 31, Bluebell, were conducted Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the Bluebell Ward Chapel. Mr. Goodrich was killed in the November 5 explosion at Bonanza along with seven other miners. His body, brought to the surface Sunday, was the last to be recovered.

He was born March 24, 1922 in Bluebell, a son of John and Rozella Hancock Goodrich. After graduating from Altamont High School in 1940 he attended Brigham Young University at Provo and Carbon College in Price. He served in the army from 1942 to 1944 and was wounded by Japanese mortar fire on Okinawa. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

After his discharge from the service he worked a year at the coal mines in Carbon County and then came to the Gilsonite mines at Bonanza.

He is survived by his parents, six brothers and sisters, Lloyd Goodrich, Little Bonanza; and Mrs. Carma Mathews, Bonanza; Lorin Goodrich, serving in the U. S. Army in Germany; Mrs. Ardis Johnson, Montana; and Carolyn Goodrich, Bluebell and his grandfather, Levison Hancock, Orem.

The services were conducted by Bishop Jim Bird of Bluebell. The Bluebell male quartet sang "Sometime We'll Understand" and the invocation was offered by Leslie Goodrich. George Daviss and Chellus M. Caldwell then sang "Just Why I Suffer Loss, I Cannot Know," accompanied by Elfreda Bryson at the piano. Bernard Winkler of the Moon Lake Stake Presidency was the first speaker. Porter Merrell and Mrs. Arthur Mitchell then sang a duet, "Thy Will Be Done," accompanied by Mary Slauch.

Second speaker was Leslie Murphy, former president of Moon Lake Stake, following a duet "The Old Rugged Cross" was sung. Benediction was pronounced by George Bartlett, president of the Bonanza Branch.

Interment was in the Bluebell Cemetery where the grave was dedicated by Willie Larson. The American Legion conducted military graveside services.

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BONANZA MINE EXPLOSION VICTIMS RECOVERED BY RESCUE WORKER SECTION

BODIES OF THREE FOUND AFTER 4-MONTH SEARCH. Bodies of the three Gilsonite miners entombed in the No. 1 incline of American Gilsonite Company at Bonanza, since

November 5, were recovered last week, more than four months after the tragic explosion took their lives.

Workers brought the bodies of Kenneth Ray Richens, 25, Vernal and Joe K. Baker, 25, Vernal; to the surface shortly after midnight Thursday. It wasn't until Sunday that the last victim, EVERETT GOODRICH, 31, Bluebell, was discovered.

Eight men died in the mine that morning. Five of the victims, Jay Var Timothy, 20, Bonanza; Hal L. Cook, 26, Vernal; Ulis Harper, 42, Vernal; Glenn Jackson, 37 and John Orval Smuin, 40, Vernal, were found November 26, twenty-one days after the mishap.

The mine cut which was completely gutted by the fire and explosion was re-timbered to a depth of 200 feet where the five were located. Then a shaft was sunk downward through the ore 136 feet and a drift was mined eastward for 127 feet to the other incline shaft where the other three had been working.

Richens and Baker were found about ten feet below where workers entered the old shaft. GOODRICH was down another thirty feet. All three were completely buried in tons of loose gilsonite ore and timbers released by the blast.

Although the explosion had reached an area of the three men, timbers were not as badly burned as at the location of the other five bodies.

Mass funeral and memorial services were conducted for the eight miners in the Uintah Stake Tabernacle on Sunday, November 22. Services for Mr. Richens, Mr. Baker and Mr. GOODRICH have been held this week

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SEARCHERS TIMBERING DOWN TO LEVEL OF BURIED BONANZA MINERS SECTION

It has been a week now since the open-cut gilsonite mine at Bonanza exploded with savage violence heaving its insides over the countryside and trapping eight miners hopelessly in its depths.

It has been a week of terrible loneliness for the families of the buried victims and a week of sadness for the small community of Bonanza and the rest of Uintah County of which these men were living part of a week ago.

At the mine, workers have spent a week cleaning up the debris and preparing for the long search for the bodies of their friends, relatives and co-workers.

Actual re-timbering began Saturday afternoon. Today the workers have built downward to about the 200 foot level. When they reach the 300-foot level, where five of the buried men were working, they will drive a shaft through the ore, down the bottom of the old shaft and then they will come back upwards to where the miners were working. This will eliminate the dangers of

falling rocks and timbers which would be present if they attempted to dig straight into the cut where the workers are.

The explosion occurred shortly after 8 a.m. last Thursday morning, a half hour after the day shift had begun working. The rumble was felt at Rangely, 32 miles away and at Jensen 33 miles away. The smoke could be seen at Vernal, nearly 50 miles away. The fire burned furiously for four hours before workers finally put it out with water and dirt. Fighting of the blaze was at first hampered by broken water and power lines.

Four men were working in or near the hoist house at the time of the tragedy. All four of them saw flames whipping up through the shaft and ran for their lives into the sagebrush.

The mine is a trench about a mile long and around six feet wide. The section where the explosion occurred was about 600 feet long and runs in an east-west direction. The section is sloped downward in each direction in a v-shape to a point 700 feet below the surface.

Five of the miners were working up the west side of the grade at the 300-foot level and although the mine is all open with the exception of timbering and flooring, the five were working in under a rut. The victims were identified as Jay Var Timothy, 20, Bonanza; Hall L. Cook, 26, Vernal; Ullis Harper, 42, Vernal; Glenn Jackson, 37, Vernal; and John Orval Smuin, 40, Vernal.

The three other miners -- Joe K. Baker, 34, Vernal; Everett Goodrich, 31, Bluebell; and Kenneth R. Richens, 24, Vernal, were working at the 7-foot level, at the bottom of the V and were covered with hundreds of feet of timbers, rocks and other debris sliding in from both directions in the narrow trench. . .

-Vernal Express, November 11, 1953

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