## 47 DEAD <br> 4350 Foot Level of <br> Argonaut Is Tomb Entrapped Men

Ghastly Sight Greets Rescuers as Reward for Their Three Weeks of Heart-Breaking. Race Against Time

JACKSON, Sept. 19.-The 47 entombed miner lived but three hours after the accident of August 27, $\mathbf{i}$ was deteumined shortly after the bodies were found last night. Deadly mine gas caused by the fire in the Argo naut shaft caused their death.

JACKSON, Cal., Sept. 19.-Death won.
The heart-breaking, nerve-straining, perilous race that for the past 22 days rescue crews have waged in the depths of the earth here, with the lives of 47 en tombed miners trapped by the fire of August 27, as the , take, onded in defeat last night, when, after an all day search through the workings of the Argonaut, all 47 were discovered dead.

Jackson today awaity the brinsing up from the depths of the earth the bodies of the men who showed that they knew how to die.

Records scrawled on paper by on'c man showed that they had lived but little more than three hours after erecting their pitiful barricades against deadly gas. Many of the men had removed their clothing to aid in making the barricade proof against the gas which, despite their brave efforts, leaked through in sufficient quantity caused death within a short time.

Regcuers entered the Argonaut yesterday morning at 5 o'clock. It was late last night when a party led by Byron O. Pickard, of the federal bureau of mines, reported the finding of $\mathbf{4 2}$ bodies in the 4350 foot level, lying behind a bulkhead the doomed men had built across the cross-cut tunnel, the second bulkhead encountered by the rescuer.

The 47 had apparently counted on the loyalty of their comrades, knew that help would come as fast as willing hands and hearts could bring it, and had made every efforts to prolong their lives.

This was California's worst mine disaster, and one of the worst in the history of the country. It occurred in one of California's richest mines, producing over $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 0 0 0}$,000 in gold annually.

Experts from all parts of the United States were drawn to the scene, and each gave of his experience in planning and executing the rescue. Despite their best efforts, however, unforseen, obstacles were encountered and over three weeks elapsed before the barriers were penetrated.

Jackson took the news calmly and found comfort in the fact that the men had met a quick and merciful death instead of the agnoies of starvation.

JACKSON; Sept. 19.-The firlt of the bodies of the Argonaut miners will be brought to the surface this afternoon. The laborious process of removing them will take about two hours for each body. The details of the burial have not been arranged. Approximately 28 were Catholics and Father Kearney was uncertain as to the arrangements for burial of the latter on account of identification being difficult.

Thirteen checks covering four weeks compensation are to be mailed today by the state induatrial commission to widows. The total compensation will exceed $\$ 100,000$.

Ernest Miller, a former resident of Salem, was one of the victims. Fifteen years ago Miller was entombed several days in a Montana mine.

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## ARGONAUT MINE

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