

2 S.L. Men Killed In Mine

FILLMORE, Utah - Two Salt Lake City men were killed Sunday after being lowered into a 90-foot deep mine-shaft in Chalk Creek Canyon three miles east of here after a dynamite blast had been set off.

Millard County Sheriff Calvin P. Stewart identified the victims as Wilford Duane White, 39, 236 E. Royal Gardens Terrace, and Kent D. Neeley, 26, 3108-26th East.

The sheriff said the men are believed to have died of carbon monoxide poisoning. The dynamite blast would take all the oxygen out of the air and estimates were it would have taken at least four hours for the shaft to clear.

A third man, Kent Neeley's father, went for help when the other two were overcome.

He told Sheriff Stewart one of the victims was lowered into the shaft in a bucket about two or three hours after the blast had been set off. When the line went limp they pulled the bucket up and the second man went down.

He signaled to be pulled up, Mr. Neeley told the sheriff, and was nearly at the top when he collapsed and fell out of the bucket down the shaft.

About 15 men from the sheriff's posse and 15 from the Fillmore Fire Department responded to the call which was received about 6:30 p.m. It took nearly two hours to recover the victims.

The first fireman down, Garn Whatcott, became ill when he came out of the shaft, but recovered with no further ill effects.

Rescuers required oxygen tanks to retrieve the bodies of the two men.

The sheriff said the three men has been coming from Salt Lake for several weekends to dig in the old mine shaft for what they believed was a portion of the golden plates which were used in the translation of the Book of Mormon.

The bodies were taken to the Olpin Mortuary in Fillmore. Sheriff Stewart said tests were to be performed Monday to determine the exact cause of death.