More respect for the living

We listened to CBS news this morning and heard a voice from New York telling us that Letcher County Judge Hart chief Judge David spent $900 to import into Letcher County a young daredevil who has never seen the inside of a coal mine but who promises to recover the 11 bodies entrapped at Scotia.

And so the tragedy which has struck Southeast Kentucky and which will mean so much for many families in the immediate future did not end on Friday. The local news seemed to indicate that 26 fatalities were killed in the mine explosion.

The men of Scotia, both living and dead, and their families deserve more than the latter. Let those who want to talk with us at length after asking that their names not be used. They are getting ready to go work when the mine exploded; it was 6:00 a.m.

Four Scotia miners who worked the second shift, some of whom were at the mine at 5:30 a.m.

The mine is about two miles from the town of Letcher County and some of the miners are working in the same area where the explosion occurred.

"I knew the motor... was in pitiful shape"

From Page 1 record, the mining operations of the Scotia mine are described.

"I'll be damned, we got an inspector coming today. The section foreman shouted, "Get that stack stacking and hanging curtains!" That's the way the miners remember it, the foreman is dead now. They followed the instructions, putting the curtains in place and stopping the air flow, so that the coal face would be ventilated.

More than one Scotia miner remembers the facts differently from the written instruction. The mine had recorded a record airflow of 6,000 cubic feet per minute. "We were doing good," one miner said.

At 7:00 p.m. Davis wrote a second violation notice. Checking the continuous miner in the section, the machine was found to have stopped. Davis ordered the machine to be continued. "But I didn't," Davis said.

At 8:20 p.m. Davis wrote a third violation notice. The machine was found to be moving slowly, stopping at intervals. Davis ordered the machine to be continued. "I knew the motor was in pitiful shape," Davis said.

In the section of 2 Left, 2 Southeast Mains, two miners had been working on a battery-powered ventilation system. They had been working on a battery-powered ventilation system.

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