

Gaye Frazier is feeling better

By CALLIE BLAIR

More sadness in our community—the death of Mrs. Bill (Janie) Adams. She died Friday at the Whitesburg Hospital, she suffered a stroke. She had been sick for several years and in a hospital. Janie was such a warm and dear person and everyone loved her and respected her. As long as she was able, she did everything she could to help people and look after their welfare. A great woman she was, we need more people like her. Her suffering is now over and she is at rest.

God bless all her children—Doug, Jimmy, and Billie Louis and her husband, Bill, and all her family and loved ones.

Sure was so sad about all those men getting trapped in the mines and dying. God bless all their families and loved ones. We never know who'll be next, but that was such a terrible shock to all those families. Mines are so dangerous anyway.

Little Terri Hensley celebrated her second birthday Saturday at her grandparents home, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Adams, with her cousins, brothers and sisters, and her mother and daddy. She enjoyed eating cake and ice cream.

Fess Blair and family have purchased a pretty mobile home

and set it behind his mother's (Nora Eldridge) home, looks so pretty in that location and hope they'll enjoy living here. Since Fess is a country boy, he'll really feel right at home. That's as close as he can get I guess.

Mattie Blair from Michigan is visiting her mother, Jenny Hall, and her daughter, Coleen Wright, and family. Hope she'll have a good visit, she's been sick since she's been here. I hope she's

Blair Branch

better now.

Glad to hear Gaye Frazier, daughter of Charlie and Rilda Adams, is feeling better after surgery, and back home in Louisville. I hope she can continue to feel better and before long she'll be well again.

Chris, Bob and Michelle Banks from Ohio visited Floyd and Lucy Watts this past week. They sure were happy to see them again. Little Michelle sure did enjoy being here with her grandparents.

Laura Caudill is feeling some better but still under the doctor's care. Clifton Hampton and family visited with her and Rex Sunday

evening after church.

Glad Stevie Craft is still feeling better and is able to sit up some and eat some better. Maybe when it warms up, he'll feel lots better.

I'm glad little Brandon Baker is feeling better. I hope when they take him back for a check-up every thing will be fine and he'll be O.K. again.

I hope Celia Back is feeling better and able to sit up now. Her children are so good to go and see about her and help her.

I hope Townsel Breeding is feeling better and will be able to stir about more soon. I know it's hard on him to have to be confined where he was so used to going and stirring about. Maybe if it starts warming up, so we can get out, we'll all feel better again.



DELANO THOMAS

Standard Lab appoints Thomas manager here

Standard Laboratories, Inc. announces the appointment of Delano Thomas as the Whitesburg lab manager. Thomas replaces Curt Hensley who has taken another job.

Thomas is well known in this area for his work as head football coach at Elkhorn City. He has a master's degree in natural science and was most recently co-manager at the Standard Laboratories Corbin facility.

In aftermath of explosions, files closed, facts withheld

Since the first explosion took 15 lives at the Scotia mine March 9, most public and private information about the disaster has been carefully veiled or specifically denied those anxious to learn the facts of the tragedy. Public files have been slammed shut; company officials have remained tight-lipped when asked about Scotia operations; federal and state officials have met infrequently and then only for brief periods with the press.

Not much was said.

After the explosion, the first reaction of both the Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals and the federal Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) was to refuse the press access to files that are legally public information.

Tuesday night, the night of the first explosion, the state Bureau of Mines specifically denied requests for information on the Scotia operation. The federal Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration followed suit the next morning.

At the same time, state police were busily confiscating and then returning film taken at the mine site by two newspapers and one television crew.

By mid-afternoon Wednesday both MESA and the state relented and provided The Eagle with what was, up until the Scotia blast, public information.

The second explosion and the deaths of another 11 miners again closed and locked the file drawers.

On Monday two MESA lawyers, Michael Durkin and Bob Cohen, denied access to public files to a United Mine Workers of America investigator. When asked for the reports on Scotia's safety record, Cohen said, "I don't want anybody looking at our files. Right now we're not providing any information."

The next day MESA re-opened the files.

At the mine site reporters were not having much better luck in gleaning information from the brief press conferences and short press releases.

Most wondered what was going on behind the line of state police and company guards.

Most still don't know.

Occasionally Richard Nellius, public information officer for MESA, would trundle down to where dozens of reporters awaited word on the progress of rescue efforts. Nellius, however, was unfamiliar with both mining practices and the Scotia situation. Little had information was produced in these visits.

Many reporters took the tack of calling the Wise Inn to directly contact MESA officials handling the situation. One reporter overheard press secretary Nellius say that he had had all phone calls to Robert Barrett, MESA administrator, routed to his room. The reporter said Nellius then bragged that he would say that he had no information and hang up.

Now, as various federal and state investigations start and information becomes more scarce, both the public and press may wonder why the files were sealed, the meetings well guarded and the phone calls re-routed.

Revival services

Revival services will be held at the Jeremiah Missionary Baptist Church April 4-11.

Speakers will be Clyde Shepherd and Jim Harrison, both of Indiana. Special singing will be held each night.

Services will begin at 7 o'clock each night.

SPRING SALE!

DRESSES

One rack were to \$24⁹⁹

Beauty Queen

Beauty Queen