

BODY WAS FOUND IN A SHAFT SUMP

Mutilated Remains of Peckville Woman Lo- cated by Workman-- May be Suicide.

WOMAN WAS DEMENTED

Battered and broken the body of Mrs. Michael Bolovic was found yesterday at the bottom of the Sterrick Creek mine shaft at Peckville. Considerable mystery surrounds the case and the mine officials are at a loss to explain how the woman got into the shaft opening as the gates have been locked since the breaker burned. Murder is also suspected, owing to the fact that an unknown Italian informed the husband of the missing woman that a woman had jumped down the shaft.

The finding of the body was accidental as owing to the destruction of the breaker some time ago by fire only pump runners are employed in that section of the mine. Yesterday morning Thomas Cowley, while walking through a portion of the mine where he seldom visited, came across the body. The shaft is 515 feet deep and the fall had resulted in the breaking of the woman's back, tearing off the rear portion of her head and the fracture of a number of other bones.

From all indications she fell into the opening at a time when the carriage was at the bottom of the shaft, and struck on the top of the cage after which the body rebounded to a loaded mine car and from that point to the ground.

An element of possible crime enters into the case by reason of the fact that some time on Thursday, when Billovicz was searching for his wife, an unknown Italian whom he accidentally ran across, told him that a woman had jumped down the Sterrick Creek shaft. How this unknown Italian knew of such a happening is not explained. Billovicz, following this clue, had gone to the engineer of the shaft and had been told that there was nothing in the unknown Italian's story and that, as a matter of fact, it was impossible for anyone to jump down the shaft, owing to safeguards placed over the opening.

The police will investigate this phase of the tragedy. It is possible, they say, that a crime may have been committed and the body afterward thrown into the shaft. Mrs. Billovicz had acted strangely lately, and was thought to be demented. She may have committed suicide.

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Fri, Dec 1, 2017