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the oldest boy was a qualified miner. She couldn't understand why at least he didn't come up. But she feared for the young fellow, 14 years old. And we were told there was nothing wrong, it would be all right and he would be brought up. They said that Bill was holding the lamp for the men that were working down there. That was the excuse they gave her. Then after they started to bring up the bodies, we went over • there were two places: one over at 12, a parish hall over there with all the bodies laying on the floor • and you could go in there and identify them, your own. I remember going around this with my mother, and she'd say, "No, that's not my boy. That's not my boy." Then she came to another parish hall that they used. She went in there. These were all emergency cases, because there was no big hospital then. There were no bodies there. She knew them all but they were not her children. She went back to the pit and stayed there, because of the boys not being brought up. Her clergy came, talked with her and helped her through it, for the day. She wouldn't leave the pit. She was getting sick herself, falling down. Remember, she'd been up all night that night, looking after this other man that was dying. And all this time I was with her, in those halls • she wouldn't go without me. I was her baby. She was too frightened to leave me. She was down at the pit. Her clergyman came down to her. He said, "Mrs, Gadd, will you come home?" She said, "I want to know the truth. I only want to know the truth." "Well," he said, "are you willing to submit to God's will?" And she said, "Yes, no matter what. Whatever God's will," sTie said, "if I only know." So he said, "Come home and I will tell you." She went home. And Mr. Johnson, a Salvation Army officer • he was a wonderful person • he told her that one boy had been killed. But the other one was spared. I had brothers overseas, and we had to send word that one brother was killed in the explosion. Then it had to be changed, that two were killed • because the little fellow was right in where the explosion happened. He was a trapper. And he was blown through the trap door with the force of the explosion. His face was all burned up. I can see it yet. I always see it. But the other fellow was only...he was probably going down to look for his brother, and he was overcome by what they call the afterdamp (carbon monoxide gas) • so there wasn't a mark on him. Not a mark. He just fell asleep. And that was our experience. And every door practically around here had a pall on the door (black ribbon). Nearly every house in this end of New Waterford would be touched, because 12 pit was here. There were mass funerals. All the Protestants were buried in one funeral and all the Catholics were buried in one funeral. The coal company gave a lot for everybody. My brothers were buried in what they called a double grave • but they were separate graves. There were no mass graves. The company looked after that. And my mother got ten dollars a month for each boy's life • that was the compensation. And this Sinclair I told you about, he had a nephew who didn't stay home. You know, they were hard times then, especially if they were large families • and this nephew didn't stay home from work that day after Mr. Sinclair died • and he went to work and was killed in that explosion. His name was John Sinclair too. They were buried the same day. college of Cape Breton

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