

PARKER E. BIVENS MEETS TRAGIC DEATH

1933

**Buried Dynamite Load Explodes As He Drills Hole
For New Charge**

The entire community is shocked and saddened at the tragic death of Parker Eugene Bivens which occurred on Thursday, September 7. The young man, an employee of the State Highway Department, was engaged in the Morton Quarry in drilling a stone preparatory for a blast when a terrific explosion occurred from the hole in which he was drilling, blowing off both his legs and destroying the sight of both eyes. He was given first aid by Dr. E. H. MacKinlay and rushed to the Chambersburg hospital where he died in the afternoon shortly after 2 o'clock, the accident having occurred at 10 A. M. The injured man was conscious almost to the time of his death. In the face of his terrible injuries he showed great self control and conversed with his father, stating he was not afraid to die.

Alvin Fix, a fellow worker who was standing near Mr. Bivens, had the crystal of his watch broken, but miraculously, was not injured. The men had done some dynamiting the evening before, and it is thought that one charge did not explode and the hole in which it was placed was covered by flying earth, and Mr. Bivens struck it in drilling.

Parker Eugene Bivens was the only child of James and Alice (Craig) Bivens and was born at Big Cove Tannery on December 7, 1908, being aged only 24 years and nine months. He was united in marriage with Emma Hopkins, a daughter of William Hopkins of McConnellsburg, and besides his parents is survived by his wife and two children, Parker, Jr., aged 3

BIVENS, PARKER EUGENE

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years, and Mary Anne, aged 17 months. He joined the Lutheran Church at Big Cove Tannery when twelve years old and lived a consistent christian life. He was devoted to his parents and family who are grief stricken by their great loss.

Funeral services were held on Saturday afternoon, September 9, at 2 o'clock, at the home of his parents, Rev. Donald F. Brake, his pastor, and Rev. William J. Lowe of the Federated Church, McConnellsburg, officiating. Interment was made in the Lutheran cemetery at Big Cove Tannery. The funeral is said to be the largest at Big Cove Tannery for many years.

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