

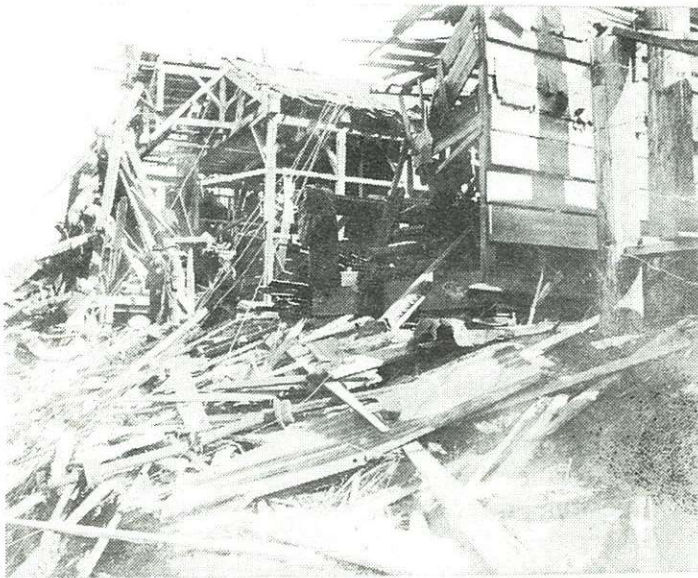
GETTING A TASTE FOR MAYHEM

by **Jim Steinberg**
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On April 29, 1899, rebellious miners blew up the concentrator of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine into match sticks. While this was an important event in the mining labor movement, it was also the real jumping off place for an itinerant miner who would eventually become one of the most infamous murderers of America's early twentieth century.

Albert E. Horsley was born on March 18, 1866, in what would become Ontario, Canada. After leaving Canada after many years of shady business dealings, Horsley headed for Spokane, Washington, where, in 1897 he assumed the new name of Harry Orchard. He then continued on to Wallace, Idaho, where he drove a milk delivery wagon. Harry made most of his deliveries in Burke, Idaho. While there, he invested in a $\frac{1}{16}$ ownership in a mining prospect known as the Hercules Mine. He soon moved to Burke where he assumed control of a wood and coal company.

Orchard had a weakness for gambling which, by the summer of 1898 had overtaxed his finances despite his lucrative wood and coal business. He sold his share of the Hercules Mine and soon had to take on a partner in his business. Later, he even sold his interest in the business to his partner.



An original photograph of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine concentrator explosion. (Author's collection)

Having no source of income, Orchard applied for work as a mucker at the Tiger-Poorman Mine and joined the Western Federation of Miners. Orchard was about to find himself right at the heart of one of the major events of the Western labor movement.

Orchard had been a member of the WFM for less than a month when the union posted the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine to get the miners there to join the union. The WFM was demanding that the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine pay their miners as much as all of the other union mines were. While the mine agreed to the new wages, it also fired all of the union miners it could discover on its payroll. By that night, the members of the Wardner Local of the WFM were very angry. On April 29th, Orchard learned that there would not be any work at any of the mines, but instead a morning meeting of the members of the WFM.

Apparently, it had been decided the night before by some of the union miners meeting in the town of Gem, Idaho, that the union would blow up the Bunker Hill and Sullivan. While some WFM leaders opposed such actions, they were unable to stop the miners from proceeding.

Shortly after the meeting, the miners gathered with their weapons at the rail station at Burke. The morning train from Wallace was commandeered and additional cars were added. Hundreds of men, including Harry Orchard, boarded the train which then headed down the canyon to Frisco, where the powder magazine of the Helena & Frisco Company was raided. They then continued on to Gem where guns and ammunition were loaded onto the train and more armed miners boarded. The train then returned to Frisco for more dynamite. In Wallace, even more miners got onto the train. About 1,200 miners and thousands of pounds of dynamite were now headed for the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine. Because all of the telegraph lines had been cut, emergency communications outside the region was impossible.

Arriving in Wardner, the miners set out under the command of W. F. Davis, the leader of the WFM local at Gem. The miners were told to advance up the hill to the concentrator. During this time, which he viewed as foolhardy, Orchard spent the time in the depot restaurant.

After the concentrator had been occupied, without resistance, Orchard and some of the other miners were sent to work lugging up the boxes of dynamite to the concentrator. Davis, experienced with dynamite, next put the miners to work setting the powder where it would have the greatest effect. All around the mine and in the bottom of the boiler room charges of powder were placed. Orchard knew nothing about explosives, but was fascinated nonetheless. In fact, when it was time for volunteers to ignite the charges, Orchard was one of the first to step forward. Orchard was sent down into the boiler room where, upon word from Davis to light the fuses, he did so. After all of the fuses had been lit, he then scrambled out through a window

which had to be broken to allow exit. The miners who had lit the charges all ran for their lives down the hill.

When the charges finally blew, they created a blast so large that it was heard fifteen miles away in Wallace. Later, the boarding house of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine was set on fire along with other outlying buildings.

The miners were all brought back to the train by a whistle blast and distributed to their various communities. On the way back, Harry Orchard rode on the top of the train.

Years later Orchard said, "I went to bed that night as usual, without thinking much about it." For Harry Orchard, this was the beginning of a new career.

Reference:

The Rocky Mountain Revolution by Stewart H. Holbrook, Henry Holt 7 Company, New York, 1956.

BEWARE OF "BY DALE"

by **Paul and Nancy Hyatt**
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A couple of years ago we acquired a miner's oil wick cap lamp, offered as marked B. Y. DALE. The name, like a number of others, was unfamiliar to us at the time. Inspection of the lamp revealed By Dale engraved in script form on the bottom. Our speculation on this well made tin "artifact" dealt on two main possibilities--either a) Dale was the maker, or b) perhaps this might be a large manufacturer's unstamped oil wick that an assembler on a whim "signed" with his or her name. Intriguing and neat eh?

Just recently, a second identical lamp described as unmarked (but signed as before) was offered to us. This lamp is still available. A short time before this second lamp appeared, a conversation with another long time collector took a brief, but illuminating turn to the subject of reproductions and fakes. As it regrettably turns out, the lamps in this article are "known" reproductions. They were made by a person in one of the Eastern coal mining states who makes, offers as reproductions, and sell these and similar lamps for the pure enjoyment of it.

Others have written about different "known" reproductions and expressed their opinions on the negative potential that arises because of them. This is a case in point. Since our intent here is to make everyone aware of another known reproduction, coupled with past commentary, we won't indulge in lengthy discourse, except to cast our vote that we wish people wouldn't create new "artifacts" no matter how well intentioned. Bad intentions, of course, speak volumes for themselves. Beware of By Dale!

If you become aware of any other reproductions or fakes that appear on the scene, please let others know about them as quickly and loudly as you can. We can all be a big help to each other in this respect, as well as all the great and interesting information on the real stuff.

No argument is inferred here in regard to the collecting of reproductions of any kind. Our take is that people should feel free and happy to collect whatever their desire dictates and circumstances allow. Our hope is to contribute to the knowledge of just what, in all its aspects, has been acquired.