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1907 – 2007: Remembering the Darr Mine Disaster

Remarks

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On December 19, 1907, an explosion in the Darr Mine, at Rostraver, Pennsylvania, took the lives of 239 men and teenage boys. The mining disaster is the worst in the history of Pennsylvania and the second worst in the history of the United States. In the explosion, most of those killed were Hungarian immigrant laborers. Countless number of immigrants came to America seeking a better life for their families, only to die prematurely in tragic ways. Because of the explosion of December 19, 1907, and because of similar tragedies, mine safety became a public issue. New laws, policies and procedures, designed to better safeguard the lives of those working underground, were developed for the mining industry. Much has changed in American society since the explosion a hundred years ago and we tend to forget important events of the past. By commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Darr Mine disaster, the Hungarian organizations planning the event declare that “we remember this important historic event and all those who were affected by it. We affirm that the sacrifices were not in vain. We remember Darr Mine in order to reaffirm our nation’s focus on safety in the workplace. And we pledge ourselves to continue working together for this cause and for the good of humankind.”

For more on the Darr Mine Disaster, see
http://www.americanhungarianfederation.org/news_darrmine.htm