



BRASS BOARD

When hired, each miner was assigned a numbered brass. These numbers were stamped on round pieces of brass. As the miner began his shift, he removed his brass from the brass board and placed it in his pocket before descending into the mine. When returning to the surface, the "brass" was returned to the board as he left the cage area. In this way all miners were accounted for at the end of each shift.

If a cave-in occurred, those miners whose brass was not on the board would be listed as being in the mine. This allowed the rescuers to know how many and who the miners were that were trapped in the cave in.

