

25 Mar 1936 Reno Evening Gazette
Blast Victim's Funeral Held

"Many friends from Tonopah and surrounding camps attended funeral services held here Sunday afternoon (22 Mar) for Chris Kuliacha, well known miner of this section, whose death occurred Thursday, the result of a powder explosion in the Mary Mine at Silver Peak. The rites were conducted from the hall of the Young Men's Serbian Society under the auspices of the order and interment was made in the Tonopah Cemetery. Friends acting as pallbearers were Pete Beko, Milan Donich, John Petrovich, Pete Mastaritza, Bob Draskovich and Andy Nicklanovich.

The accident which caused the death of Kuliacha was one of the most tragic which has occurred in this mining district. Going to get some tools in the mine, Kuliacha apparently entered a cross-cut of the main drift, where, in years past a quantity of black powder had been stored. Evidently his miners lamp in some way contacted the powder. Though severely burned, the man crawled some yards to the opening of the drift, where fellow miners reached him. He lived four hours.

Kuliacha was one of the most experienced miners in this section and of the Mary Mine. He had been in the employ of several major mining companies here since 1909.

Deputy Mine Inspector Kendall was summoned from Las Vegas to the coroner's inquest. The jury found death due to burns, caused by the accidental explosion of black powder which had been stored in a cross-cut in the main drift of the Mary mine for a number of years, said cross cut having no sign that the powder was stored there."