

Chatham County's Newest Highway Historical Marker: The Coal Glen Mine Disaster



Chatham County's newest highway historical marker was dedicated on June 3, 2017. The marker commemorates North Carolina's worst mining accident, which occurred on May 27, 1925, when explosions killed 53 men in the small Chatham County mining village of Coal Glen. To date the event remains the worst industrial accident in North Carolina history. The news of the explosion made headlines nationwide, and was even mentioned in papers overseas. The disaster is often credited as being the impetus behind the passage of North Carolina's Workman Compensation Act in 1929.

Local historian Forest Hazel researched the history of the disaster and provided the impetus for the marker's approval.

The marker is located on US 15/501 at the southern intersection with Walter Bright Rd., north of Sanford.

Read more on the official site for [North Carolina's Highway Historical Markers](#).