

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 20)

Mine Safety Appliances Company

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, No Par Value

(Title of Class of Securities)

602720 10 4

(CUSIP Number)

1. Name of Reporting Person Helen Ruth Henderson

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group
(a)
(b)
3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship USA

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Number of | 5. Sole Voting Power | <u>290,634</u> |
| Shares | | ----- |
| Beneficially | 6. Shared Voting Power | <u>116,392</u> |
| | | ----- |
| Owned by | | |
| Each | 7. Sole Dispositive Power | <u>290,634</u> |
| | | ----- |
| Reporting | | |
| Person With | 8. Shared Dispositive Power | <u>70,840</u> |
| | | ----- |
9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person
407,026

10. Check Box if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain
Shares

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row 9 8.1%

12. Type of Reporting Person IN

ITEM 1(A) NAME OF ISSUER:

Mine Safety Appliances Company

ITEM 1(B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES:

P. O. Box 426
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

ITEM 2(A) NAME OF PERSON FILING:

Helen Ruth Henderson

ITEM 2(B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE, OR IF NONE, RESIDENCE:

728 Fairview Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15238

ITEM 2(C) CITIZENSHIP:

USA

ITEM 2(D) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES:

Common Stock, No Par Value

ITEM 2(E) CUSIP NO.:

602720 10 4

ITEM 3 IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B),

CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:

Inapplicable. This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-2(b) by a person described in Rule 13d-1(c).

ITEM 4 OWNERSHIP:

See Items (5) through (9) and Item (11) of cover page.

ITEM 5 OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS:

Inapplicable.

ITEM 6 OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON:

Inapplicable.

ITEM 7 IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE

SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY:

Inapplicable.

ITEM 8 IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP:

The undersigned is not a member of any group of two or more persons who have agreed to act together for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting or disposing of any equity securities of Mine Safety Appliances Company.

ITEM 9 NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP:

Inapplicable.

ITEM 10 CERTIFICATION:

Inapplicable.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 4, 1998

Date

/s/ Helen Ruth Henderson

Signature

Helen Ruth Henderson

Name/Title