

Coal, Oil, Gas

A Collection of
Articles and Photographs

Fort Vance Historical Society

\$200 An Acre for Independence Coal

Independence, March 23.—A coal deal involving the sale of 410 acres of territory adjoining the village of Independence has just been closed and the sum of \$82,000, or at the rate of \$200 an acre, was paid. The land belonged to Mrs. Letitia Liggett, of Locust avenue, Washington. While the purchasers are not known, it is understood that the land was taken by the Waverly Coal company, of which R. M. Cook, of Duncan avenue, and S. C. Cook, of West Wheeling street, Washington, are the principal owners. The deal was made through L. M. Irwin, cashier of the Lincoln National bank of Avella.

The Liggett land is located just in the edge of the village of Independence and extends northward, bordering on the present operations of the Waverly Coal company. It is underlaid with a fine vein of coal, as from under these farms for the past 50 years or more the Independence section has been supplied with fuel. Mrs. Liggett reserved 10 acres near where the country mine has been operated for years, and it is likely that this will be continued for the benefit of the residents of the Independence section.

Some years ago Mrs. Liggett, by agreement, sold this tract and received \$5,000 in cash, but the deal fell through. That hand money, with the present price makes about \$212 an acre. Some hand money has already been paid on this deal, and one-fourth of the purchase money will be paid within a few days. During the past few months several deals have been made in Independence township, where the price has been \$200 an acre.



15-Pound Yule Turkeys Given 600 Mine Workers

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 23 (AP)—A coal operator played Santa Claus to his 600 miners today.

He gave each employe a fifteen-pound turkey and ordered the next payday advanced five days.

Leonard P. Sasso, president of the Penowa Coal Company, with mines at Noblestown, Burgettstown, and Eldersville, Pa., and Brooke County, W. Va., said:

"This year they need the turkeys so much I decided to give them out regardless of conditions in the coal mines."

The miners are working only three days a week. On John L. Lewis' orders they will enter the pits only two days in each of the next two weeks. The three-day week was instituted Dec. 5 in a contract maneuver by Mr. Lewis after a long strike that began Sept. 19.

One of the first employes to get his turkey was E. J. Slack of Sturgeon, who said with a broad grin:

"This is a big turkey, but it'll only make one meal for my family—my wife, eight children and my 65-year-old mother."

Altogether, 9,060 pounds of turkey were distributed.

15 Pound Yule Turkeys Given to 600 Mine Workers
New York Times-December 24, 1949 Edition

MINER'S FINES TO BE REFUNDED

PITTSBURG — Approximately 15,000 commercial coal miners of Western Pennsylvania who struck in sympathy with captive coal miners last November will be refunded the \$1-a-day fines imposed on them by the coal operators.

As a result of negotiations carried on by the United Mine Workers of districts 3, 4 and 5, and the Western Pennsylvania Coal Operators Association, the fines will be repaid by January 15.

The fines were deducted from the miners' pay checks by the individual coal operators under the union contract which provides a fine of \$1 a day against miners who conduct unauthorized strikes.

15,000 Miner's Fines to be Refunded
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 8, 1942 Edition

Local Industrialists Meet To Study Safety Methods

Representatives of Leading Industries Have Fine Safety Program

More than 400 employees of the American Zinc and Chemical Co. and the Langeloth Coal Co. attended the safety rally in the Langeloth community church on April 8th. A. P. Huckenstein of Pittsburgh, Supervising Inspector of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, made the principal address. George E. Clarkson, manager of the Western Pennsylvania Safety Council also spoke. Comedy was supplied by Felix the Cat and Charlie Chaplin. A picture of the Langeloth school May day exercises was also presented by Mr. Warner. Langeloth Boy Scouts, under the direction of Scoutmaster Enos Smith and Special Instructor A. J. Nairn put on a very fine first aid demonstration. D. C. Wray presided.

Mr. Huckenstein stressed the tremendous progress that has been made in industrial safety in the past 15 years. In that time fatal accidents in the state have been reduced from 15 a day to six a day, he said, and other accidents have been reduced in almost the same proportion, from a thousand a day to 500 a day. "A program that can show such results," continued Mr. Huckenstein, "cannot be called 'bunk'. Twenty years ago among structural iron workers it was known in advance that a 20-story building would claim 30 lives; that is, one and a half lives per story of height. To-day, the great Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh has been completed without a single fatalit or in fact, without a single serious accident." Mr. Hucestein made a urgent plea for a fuller cooperation with the "Safety Program," directing attention to the fact that it is the "human element" that is responsible for the large number of accidents that continue to occur. The three basic factors of safety, he stated, were cleanliness, orderliness, and light.

After the meeting sandwiches coffee and doughnuts were served to the men "on the company."

**Local Industrialist Meet to Study Safety Methods
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 16, 1931 Edition**

ZINC PLANT FIRES FIFTH FURNACE RECALLS FIFTY MORE EMPLOYEES

Superintendent Frederick H. Illig announces the lighting of fires under the fourth Roaster Kiln today in the American Zinc and Chemical Company's plant at Langeloth and the resumption of operation in another block of furnaces. From forty to fifty former employes will be recalled to their jobs at the Zinc plant this week end, bringing production in the plant to above normal. Until the resumption of activity in the Fifth Furnace block, 490 men have been working steadily at the plant, and production has been normal.

Increased rush orders was given as the reason for this action at the Plant, which Mr. Illig stated had not used all five furnaces since 1938. Early resumption of firing in the sixth and last block is to be expected, and when such a move occurs will bring activity at the plant to peak production.

Climax Molybdenum Company was reported his week as hiring additional men to place in operation a second shift, in order to meet increased demands for Molybdenum.

Coal production in this section is reported to be picking up considerably. Harmon Creek Coal company reports that two shifts are now working full time at this shovel operation. Freight loadings on the Pennsylvania railroad from the Burgettstown district are reported to be steadily increasing.

Zinc Plant Fires Fifth Furnace, Recall Fifty More Employees
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 29, 1940 Edition

**UNION SENIOR SUFFERS
PAINFUL INJURIES**

Andrew Gratchen, a member of the Senior class at Union High school was the victim of a serious and painful accident last Wednesday morning, when he was crushed while at work for the Penowa Coal Co., in Cherry Valley. Gratchen, son of Mrs. Bessie Gratchen of Joffre is receiving treatment for his injuries at Mercy hospital and is reported to be recovering. He was squeezed between two coal cars, when he fell from the car on which he was working.

Atlasburg & Cedar Grove To Be Abandoned

Caplan and Chambers, acting as agents for the Island Creek Coal company's property at Atlasburg and Cedar Grove employed a crew of wreckers on Tuesday to begin dismantling of these two mines. Stop and Go orders shuttled back and forth the latter part of 1939, when efforts were made to secure a buyer for these properties after the coal business pick-up in September, but it is understood that the purchase price was placed at about \$600,000 and terms were cash so no buyer was found.

The Island Creek Coal company acquired these mines last spring, in a deal with Carnegie Coal company whereby it secured important docks of Erie, needed as an outlet for the West Virginia coal of this company. The mines never re-opened after the 1938 spring strike, thereby automatically placing about 1100 families on the relief rolls and it is understood that a high percentage are still receiving state aid.

The Island Creek Coal company was not interested in re-opening the mines due to high production costs and the alleged labor difficulties that cropped frequently in recent years. Listening to the pleas of Burgettstown business men, the Company has kept the mines pumped out in a vain attempt to find an operating buyer, but failed to do so and the orders received this week by their agents seals the doom of two more former big payroll factors in this area.

During the past several months, Caplan and Chambers have been selling the houses of the property piecemeal at reasonable figures and many of the former employes have bought homes for themselves.

The crew going to work this week will entirely demolish the mine property, making the equipment and material available for re-sale.

—V—

August DePaul of Joffre, set an outstanding record at the Pittsburgh Coal Company, Solar Mine, by loading 3867 cwts. of coal for a period of two weeks. He ranked highest in a group of 150 miners.

—V—

**August DePaul Set Outstanding Record for Loading Coal
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 16, 1943 Edition**

AVELLA MINE IS CLOSED DUE TO COST OF LABOR

Company Claims Inability to Pay
Scale of Rates Formerly
Paid to Miners

Operations at the P. & W. mine of the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co. at Avella were indefinitely suspended on Wednesday of last week, some machinery removed and workmen notified to take their tools from the working. About 600 men are affected by the shut-down. The mine had been working from one to three days a week for a considerable length of time.

The mine is the only one in the Avella district working under an agreement with the United Mine Workers of America, the company having reached an agreement June last, under which the mine has been paying 45 cents a ton for machine-mined coal, while other mines in the district pay 30 to 40 cents a ton. The wage scale for day men at the P. & W. mine has been \$1 to \$1.50 higher than at any other mine in the district.

Superintendent Edward Travis announced that the reasons for shutting down the mine were that the company could not compete with the non-union mines of the district, and that the wage scale was too high in comparison with that at other mines. His statement said: "We are satisfied with the United Mine Workers of America, but cannot pay their wage scale in comparison with the other mines in this district. If the wage scale were reduced we could work every day." He said that the company could provide a checkweighman and union working conditions if the scale were lowered.

Avella Mine is Closed Due to Cost of Labor
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 10, 1931 Edition

Avella Miners Organize.

At a mass meeting of miners held at Avella last Friday an organization of the United Mine Workers of America was formed. Most of the men joining the union were workers from the Pittsburgh Coal Co. mines, it was stated.

AVELLA MINERS QUIT ACCOUNT SCALE CUTS

Refuse to Work Under Terms of
New Scale Proposed
by Operators

The improved laboring conditions in the vicinity of Avella, which it had been hoped would solve some of the unemployment problems in that district, have not materialized, and this week was ushered in without any progress having been made.

At a mass meeting held by the miners it was decided not to accept the scale cuts proposed by the operators in the Avella field. The men objected to a reduction of from 40 cents a ton for loading to 30 cents a ton for this work. They also demanded a rate of \$5 a day for outside work and \$5.25 a day for inside labor.

The operators stated that the opening of lake coal trade would in all probability result in additional orders coming into this section, and stated they could operate on the new scale but could not possibly keep the mines working at the old rates of pay to miners and laborers. It is understood some men are working at the Pittsburgh Terminal mines and at the operations of the Aurora colliery of the Duquesne Co., but there is no general agreement among many of the men regarding working terms.

Another delegation of unemployed from the Avella district visited Washington on Saturday and conferred with county officials. The men told officials at the county seat that they were in a destitute condition and asked aid for themselves and families. The men in this delegation claimed they are not members of any radical organizations.

Commissioner W. A. Barnes told the miners that the county had set aside funds for the relief of needy and that an investigation would be made with the purpose of affording such relief as may be possible. Action is expected in a few days.

BAD CONDITIONS EXIST AT VILLAGE OF BERTHA

**Continued Troubles Afflict People
of Small Mining Community
Near Burgettstown**

Poverty and want stalks like grim spectres in the neighborhood of the Bertha mine, about two miles west of Burgettstown, where for the past four or five years coal operations have been of the most unsatisfactory nature. The mine has been operated by various concerns, most of which have been unable to conduct a normal business for one reason or another. In most cases miners who have worked at all during the period have received no pay, or only a part of their earnings.

The mine again closed down definitely about three weeks ago, and according to reports the employees have received nothing for the last period of employment.

Reports coming out of the mining community are to the effect that only three or four families residing there are not applicants for relief. Those not seeking relief assistance are men who have some work elsewhere. The mine has recently been operated by the J. C. Cook Coal Co., successors to the Bertha Consumers Co., which was among the several concerns that have failed in business at Bertha in the past few years.

E. H. Cole, relief administrator for Washington and Greene counties, says that the relief load has increased heavily in the mining town and that special investigators have been assigned to study the situation. On October 12th, he said, there were 140 cases being investigated upon application of residents of the locality. Many of these were transient cases. Mr. Cole said that the mine had been closed and the final pay had not been forthcoming.

It was also reported that the company had been conducting a sale of its stock to the miners for the last few months, taking a percentage of the price from each pay. This stock is now reported to be worthless by those who assume that the company has discontinued its operations permanently. It was also stated that the Bertha Consumers Company former operators conducted a similar sale of stock shortly before it discontinued business at the mine a few years ago.

**Bad Conditions Exist at Bertha Village
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 24, 1934 Edition**

Bell Mine Fire Fighters Stop



Efforts to put out a fire in the old Bell Mine have been halted due to the lack of funds. The State Department of Mines stopped fire-fighting operations Tuesday in an entry located under the Plum Run road about 1,000 feet from the Burgettstown Borough line. Shown in the above Enterprise photo are Smith Township Police Chief Mike Robb, Supervisor Art Florio, Malcolm Magnuson, mining engineer from the U. S. Bureau of Mines and Dave Lewis of the State Department of Mines.

According to mining officials the fire has burned for over a year. Efforts to put out the blaze from an entry under the Plum Run road were stopped because of the hazardous condition. Traffic on the road will be re-routed township supervisors announced because of possibility of a cave-in from the fire-weakened sub-structure. The blazing coal seam is under the road.

State mining officials reported that funds to continue the fire fighting must be appropriated after the new fiscal period begins in June. A three-man crew has been attempting to stop the fire since March 13.

Bell Mine Fire Fighters Stop
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 13, 1961 Edition

Pennsylvania Mine Adds Day Shift.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 11 (AP).—R. D. Thompson, superintendent of the Bertha Consumers Company mine near Burgettstown, Pa., announced today that day shift operations, involving employment of fifty men, have been started at the mine. For the last six months a part-time night shift has been employed.

Bertha Mine Adds Day Shift
New York Times-October 12, 1932 Edition

Bertha Mine Resuming.

Bertha No. 2 mine of the Bertha Consumers Co. located near Burgettstown, is starting up full as a pick mine and will use from 50 to 100 additional miners immediately, it is understood. It is reported the mine has orders which will enable it to work every day until the spring. The town of Bertha, where the mine is located, is on the Panhandle, about 3 miles west of Burgettstown and is also reached by an improved road. This information may be of value to men of the community who are seeking work.

Bertha Mine Resuming
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 22, 1931 Edition

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Bologna Coal Company has requested bond release for Surface Mine Permit # 63823037R pursuant of the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act. The permit was issued on November 19, 1984, and renewed on November 6, 1989. It is located 2 miles southwest of Eldersville, Pa., on the west side of Jefferson Township, Washington County. A State 1, 2 & 3 bond release or deletion of \$75,300.00 is requested for 35.45 unaffected acres. Written comments, objections and requests for a public hearing or informal conference may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Mining and Reclamation, R.D. # 2, Box 603-C, Armbrust Professional Center, Greensburg, PA 15601 by August 15, 1992, and must include the person's name, address, telephone number and a brief statement as to the nature of the objections(s).

6-24, 7-1, 8, 15

Bologna Coal Company
The Enterprise-July 15, 1992 Edition

Bombing at Atlasburg.

Reports of disorder in the strike zone on Tuesday included the alleged bombing of the home of Harold Leese, located in the patch at Atlasburg. Considerable damage was done the building, but no personal injuries resulted. It is reported Leese had been threatened because of his desire to go to work in the mine.

Little Boy Lost In Area Strip Pits

A little lost boy who saw "fire, rocks, and Humpty-Dumpty's house" was safe in the arms of his mother late Monday afternoon, after a three-hour search by friends, neighbors, high school students, the Burgettstown firemen, and other volunteers. Little Brian Moran, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustine Moran, of 24 Tenan street, was found near the strip mine pits, after wandering from his home while at play.

R.L. Kum, foreman for the Penn-Weir Strip Operators, unaware that the child was missing, looked up from his work and saw the tot standing along the road to the Goodwill Hunting and Fishing Club, in the strip mine area near Florence. He had wandered nearly three miles from his home. Upon his return, little Brian related that he had seen fire and rocks and Humpty's-Dumpty's house. The fire could have been the mine fire that is burning in the area, and the rocks were undoubtedly the high walls and spoil piles of the strip operations. Humpty-Dumpty's house remains a mystery.

Brian and his brother, Shawn, who is almost six years old, and a little neighborhood playmate, Michael Kowalski, also six, were playing near their home on Tenan street about 1 o'clock Monday afternoon. Michael, whose mother is a patient in Mercy hospital, was a luncheon guest of the two Moran boys. When Mrs. Moran called to them about 1:45, the two older boys explained that they had "sent Brian home."

were playing near their home on Tenan street about 1 o'clock Monday afternoon. Michael, whose mother is a patient in Mercy hospital, was a luncheon guest of the two Moran boys. When Mrs. Moran called to them about 1:45, the two older boys explained that they had "sent Brian home."

Brian, who was too young to be familiar with the surroundings at the end of the street, had apparently started home in the wrong direction, and became lost. When neighbors failed to locate the boy, Mrs. Moran, whose husband was also a patient in Mercy hospital, called Burgettstown firemen, and the search was on.

Mr. Kum brought the boy to Burgettstown, where police and firemen called the distraught mother. A reunion of mother and son took place in front of the Burgettstown Enterprise office at about 4:30 p.m. three hours after the boy disappeared.

Brian Moran Lost in Area Strip Pits
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 11, 1963 Edition



Bulger Block Coal Company-Bulger, PA
Fort Vance Historical Society



1879

ME

Grundy Court Studio
C. M. Johnson

POSTED
June 9
EDITORIAL AUDITING DEPT.

Pa

[Handwritten scribble]

Spec. Hear.
JUN 3 1928

The mine & town of
BULGER. Most of
the house has been
abandoned. The smoke
from the burning
mine waste, or "red dog" *

7-711

3475



Burgettstown Coal Company Miners –About 1920

Burgettstown Coal was located beyond Dinsmore Avenue, Burgettstown, PA.

L-R: Ben Sholtz, Unknown, Frank Cox, ? McGowan, Jack Phillips, Unknown, Bob Neely, Unknown, Unknown, and Unknown.

L-R: Unknown, Unknown, and George Pyle.

Fort Vance Historical Society

Officials Inspect Park Development

James F. Hillman, President of the Harmon Creek Coal Company and Carl Ackley, Architect from the firm of Ackley, Bradley and Dav, Architects and Engineers of Sewickley were in Burgettstown on Monday, to make a tour of inspection of Burgettstown's Community Park and Swimming Pool which is being developed by the Harmon Creek company on Bavington Hill. Mr. Hillman stated that the pouring of concrete for the pool proper has been completed and that construction on the bath houses will begin very soon. The Company plans to have the Park in readiness for use by early summer.

—V—

Burgettstown mining firm schedules job fair, classes

Burgettstown-based GMS Mine Repair & Maintenance will have a job fair Aug. 25 and 26 in Dallas Pike, W.Va.

The fair will be conducted in the conference room from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the next day. There is no preregistration, and there are no fees.

GMS has jobs available in Southwestern Pennsylvania, the West Virginia panhandle and eastern Ohio. It is seeking experi-

enced coal miners, foremen and other job candidates. Résumés will be accepted at the job fair, but candidates may apply at online at www.gmsminerepair.com or at the fair.

GMS also offers a 32-hour training class for underground miners every week at the Greene County CareerLink office outside Waynesburg. The classes will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 27-30, and preregistration is required. Call 724-852-1017 Ext. 4.

Burgettstown Mining Firm Schedules Job Fair, Classes
Observer-Reporter-August 18, 2018 Edition

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Company

Preserving the past

Cecil Historical Society to commemorate coal miners

By EMILY PETSKO
Staff writer
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

Joseph Marley was left on his cousin's doorstep when he was just a baby. At the behest of his stepmother and father, who later regained custody, he dropped out of school at age 12 and entered a Cecil Township coal mine to help pay the bills.

He worked as a miner for more than four decades in "knee-deep water, hunched over all day," said his son, Ken Marley.

It was no way to live, but it was one of the few ways to make a living in early 20th-century Pennsylvania. Like Marley, many men worked in now-shuttered Cecil coal mines, and some even died there.

To preserve their memory and the township's history,

Ken Marley proposed the construction of a coal miner memorial and pavilion in Cecil Park. The Cecil Township Historical Society took on the project and collected about \$5,000 in individual donations, but organizers need about \$30,000 altogether.

A large headstone will contain the names of the 271 men who died in Cecil Township mines, free of cost to family members. Anyone else who wishes to honor a former Cecil miner can donate \$100 and have that person's name displayed on a brick in front of the memorial. The historical society also hopes to attract corporate donors.

Marley grew up in Hill Station, which is now Lawrence, and said his inspiration for the memorial comes from his father – a "brilliant" man

Please see Mines, Page A2



EMILY PETSKO / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Ken Marley, who grew up in Cecil Township, proposed the idea of constructing a coal miner memorial in Cecil Park. Cecil Township Historical Society took on the project and is soliciting donors.



PHOTO FROM THE CECIL TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL MAGAZINE

Three miners use a mule to remove coal from a mine in the Cecil area.

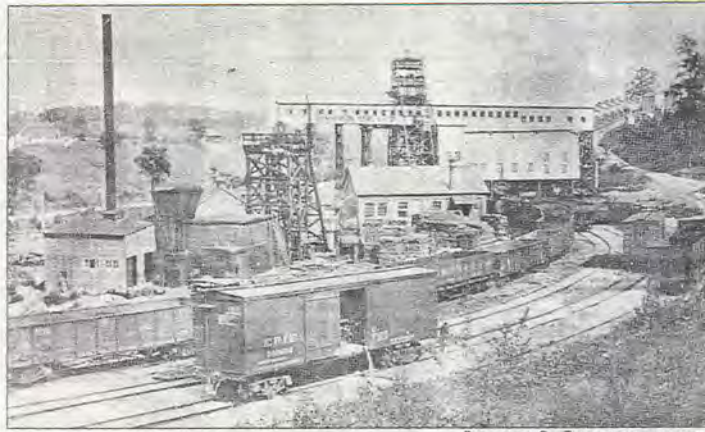


PHOTO FROM THE CECIL TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL MAGAZINE

The Henderson Coal Co. mine in Hendersonville

Mines

Continued from Page One
 who could make a radio out of a spool and wires, and a man who touted the virtue of sacrifice. Joseph Marley died six years ago from lung disease at the age of 93.

GEORGE BABEJI SAID WHILE HIS FATHER WAS DYING FROM LUNG DISEASE, HE SHARED HIS PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: THE FACT NONE OF HIS FOUR SONS BECAME A COAL MINER.

"In spite of his black lung, he must have had a heart made of steel," Marley said.

Today, the coal mining industry is almost unrecognizable when compared to its 20th-century predecessor. Little remains except for the stories passed down from one generation to the next. One remaining artifact in Cecil Township is a "clinker" — a large slab of low-grade coal compacted with other materials — that is displayed near the old Muse slate dump on Muse-Bishop Road.

The clinker, and a short essay written by Marley, will be incorporated into the memorial. There will also be a kiosk displaying the history of Cecil mines, which Marley hopes will become a project for aspiring Eagle Scouts.

George Babeji, of Lawrence, was the first person to donate to the memorial fund. His father, John Babeji Bobble, was a first-generation American whose parents emigrated from Czechoslovakia. Bobble worked for 41 years in the Montour 4 mine.



PHOTO FROM THE CECIL TOWNSHIP BICENTENNIAL MAGAZINE

This photo shows Bishop Coal Mine, around 1911, at the site where the Cecil American Legion post now sits on Route 50.

Babeji said it was a dirty, dangerous job and recalled the time his father lost a finger.

"Back in the old days, he ran a regular cuttin' machine, which was like running a chainsaw that cut the coal," he said. "He got his finger cut off in the mine, and he brought it home in his glove and took a shower before he got it operated on. He didn't want to go to the hospital dirty."

Babeji said while his father was dying from lung disease, he shared his proudest accomplishment: the fact none of his four sons became a coal miner.

Marley said he went to the bottom of a mine as a child and gained a deeper appreciation of his father's positive attitude despite the difficulties he faced. He recalled the time his father wore a necktie to work because his boss complained the miners didn't dress appropriately.

"He put his dirty, old work clothes on — body nice and clean, but those dirty, filthy work clothes — and he's got a necktie on," Marley said. "My mother just started laughing — she peed herself."

The job was undesirable in many ways, but few coal miners complained. Brenda Thornburg, who grew up in Montour, said her father, James Hawkins, loved the job. It was just "in his blood," and he started working

in the coal mine as a teenager.

She remembers him coming home with "coal black" skin, with only the whites of his eyes glowing. At the time, they had only a granite washing tub in the kitchen. His entire paycheck went toward bills, except for the \$5 he used to purchase a gallon of zinfandel wine.

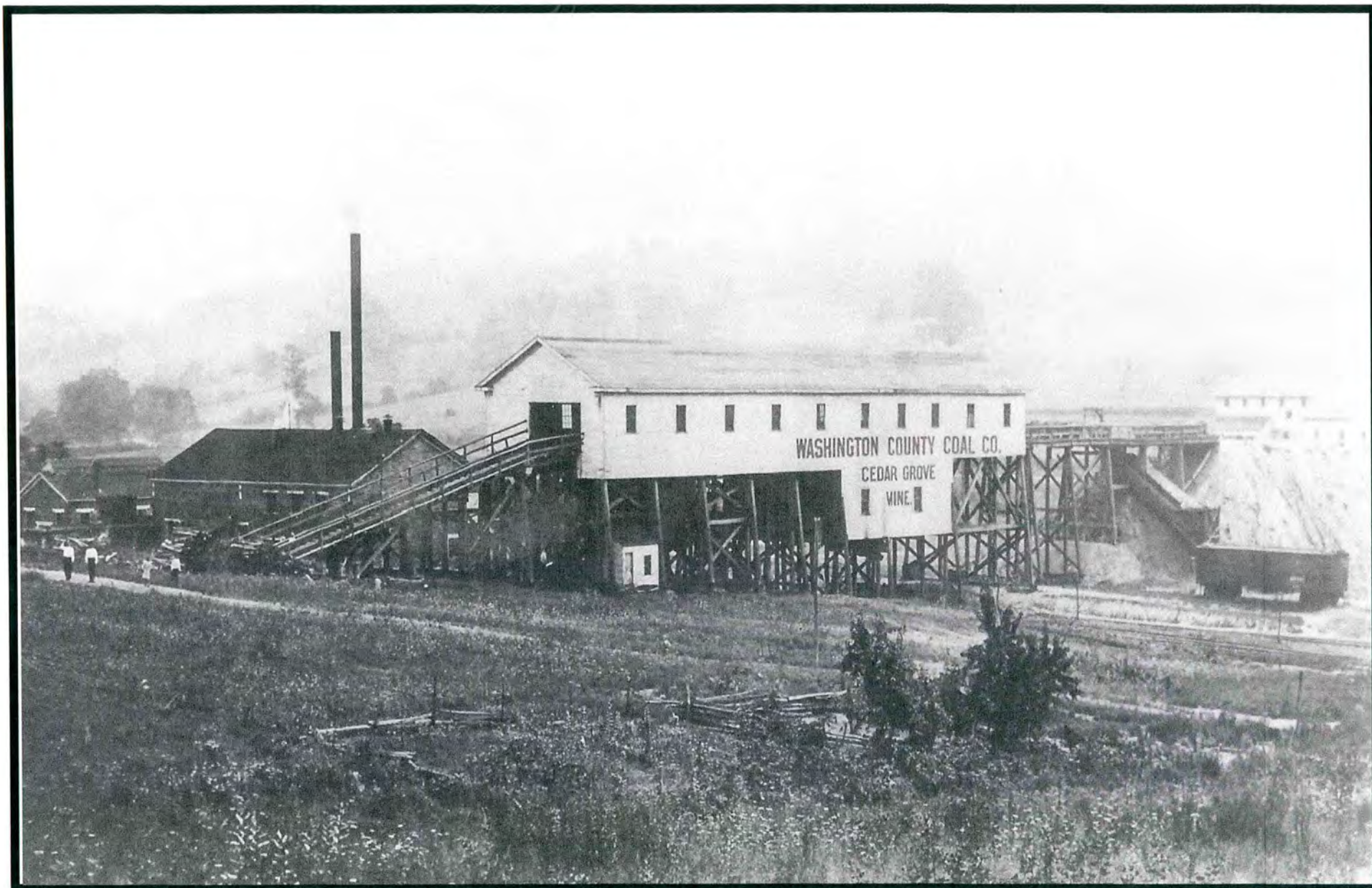
"He'd drink a glass every once in a while, and he'd make the funniest face," Thornburg said.

Hawkins died at age 50 from injuries he sustained in the Hills Henderson mine when a "roof bump" caused a wall to cave in. Some men who died in Cecil mines were as young as 16, and others were in their 70s.

Marley wrote in his essay that although the "lowly clinker" is useless, it is all that is left of Cecil's coal mining past.

"(It) becomes a memorial to the now-deceased king and displayed as part of the memorial to the miners who worked, suffered and died in the coal mines of our communities," Marley wrote. "And like the surviving clinker, they too survive."

To donate, mail a check payable to the Cecil Township Historic Society to P.O. Box 48, Cecil, PA 15321. Donors are asked to include the full name of the person they wish to honor and the coal mine where he worked.



Cedar Grove Mine Tipple



Cedar Grove Miners Circa 1920

Front Row: Seated: Tom Deer and Joe Matinelli

Middle Row: Steve Swica, Bill Wargo, Chuck Alberta, Elmer Peterson, John Vodensky, Borcha, Gusti Peterson, July Kristoff, John Deply, and John Ferguson.

Top Row: Harry Latshaw, George Mele, Big John Kaznak, Little Martin Gustafson, Mike Massino, Mel Matthews, Snow, Joe Phillips, Andy Korody, and John Kristoff.



Cedar Grove Miners

Front Row: Charles Kormos, James Kristoff, _____,
Big George _____, Joe Massino (standing)

Back Row: Andy Vodensky, Audin (Red) Ferguson, Paul McChancy,
Jack Polski, George Butcher, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____.

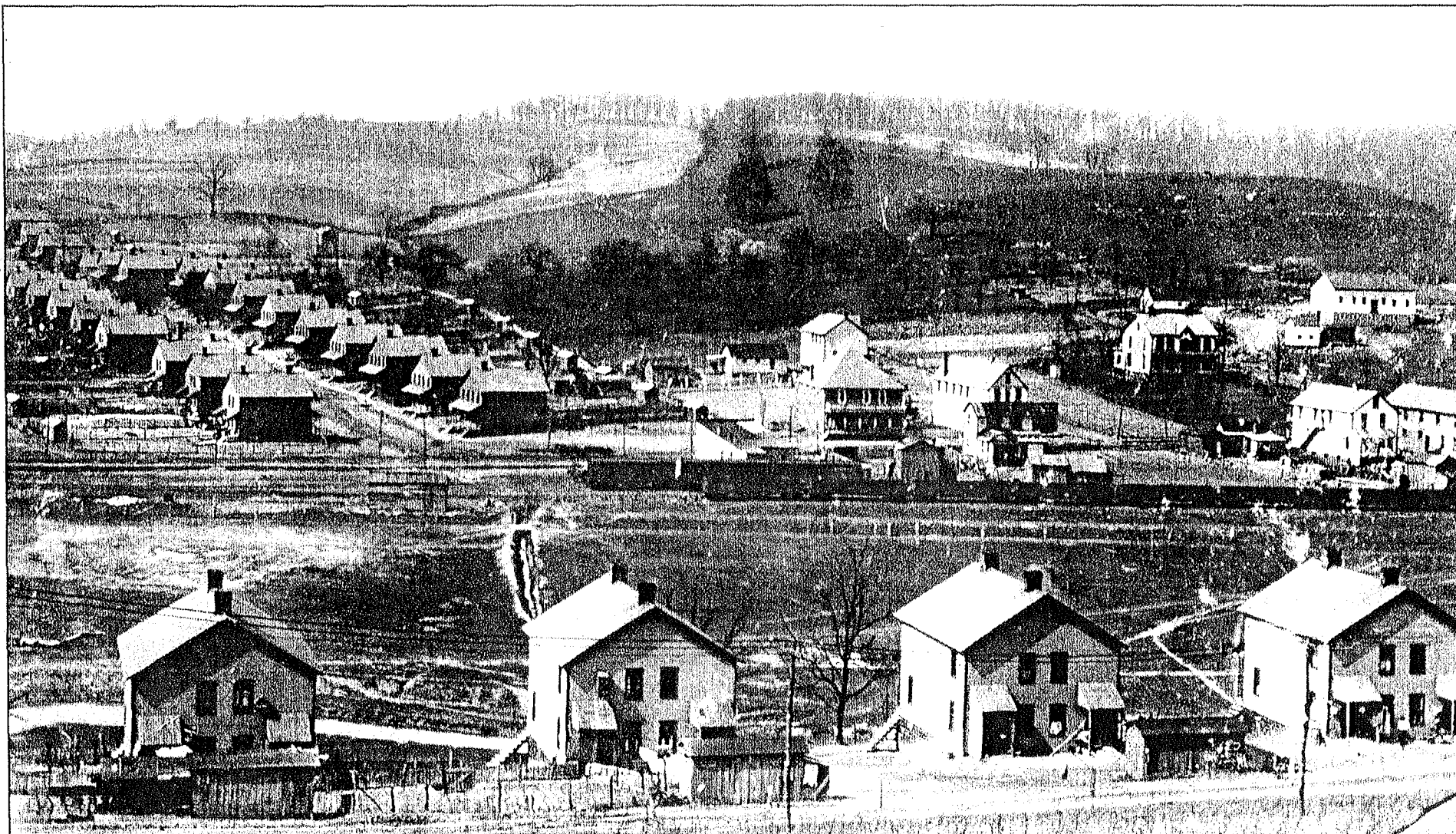


Dr. Harry Stunkard
Cedar Grove Mine Doctor

**Remembered especially for his tireless
efforts during the influenza epidemic of 1918.**



*Dr. Harry Stunkard-Cedar Grove Mine Doctor
Remembered especially for his tireless efforts during the influenza epidemic of 1918*



How green was the valley

This "panoramic birds eye view of Cherry Vally Pa." is from the late 1800s or the early 1900s, accord-

ing to Emma Lukon of Burgettstown, who submitted this photograph. It was given to her by her late

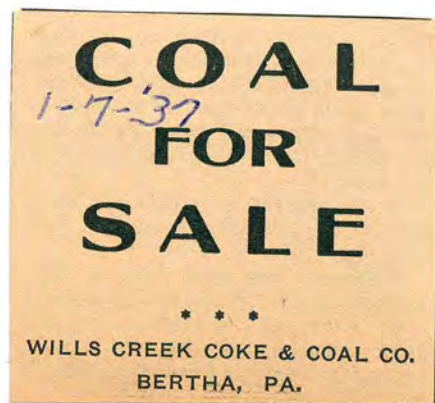
mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Lukon.

Cherry Valley, PA
Late 1800's or early 1900's

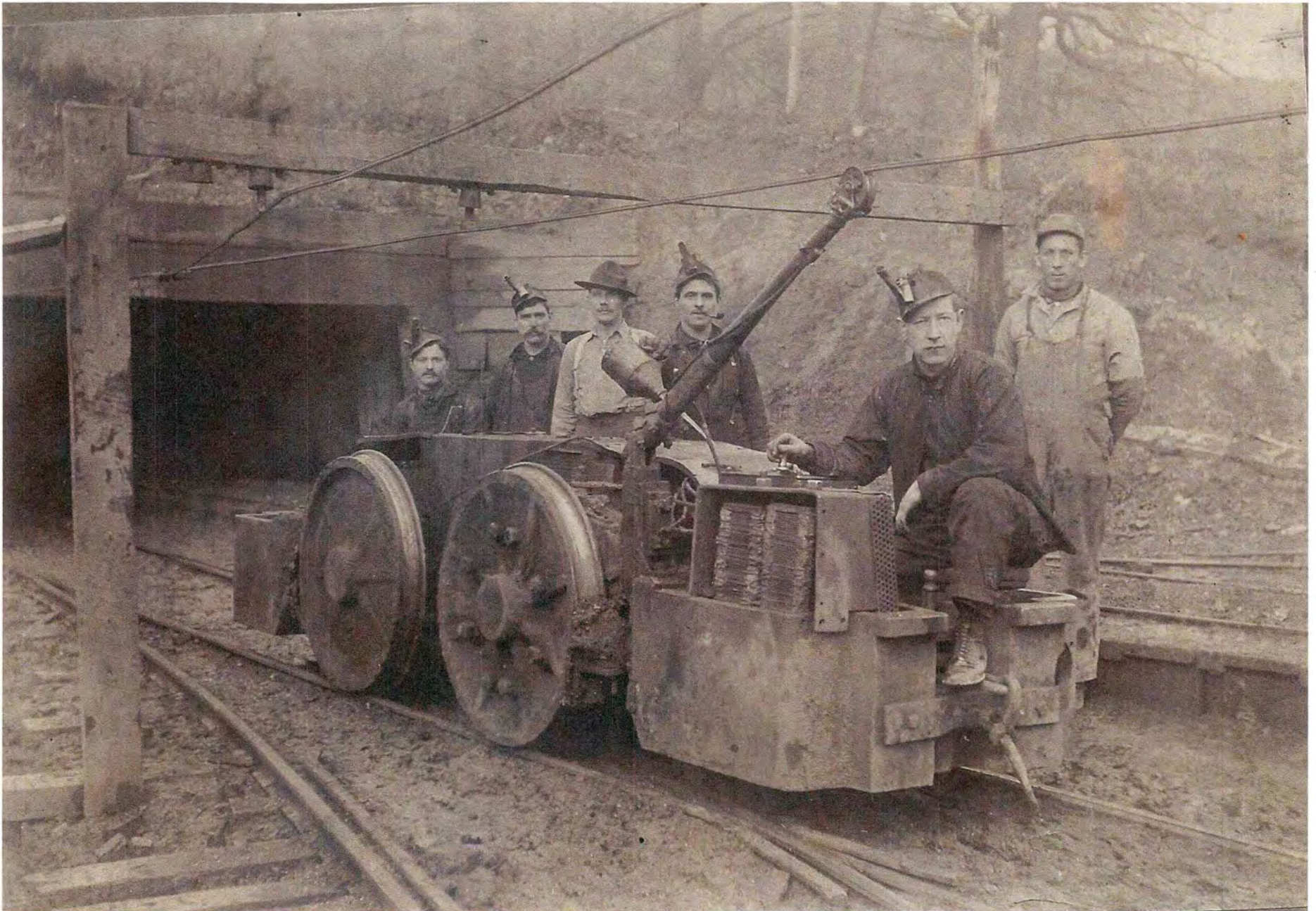
Clerk Wanted

WANTED. Clerk with typing experience to act as weighmaster at Arnold Mine, Hanover Twp. Must be bonded (We pay for bond and license).

Write: General Atlantic Corp.,
R. D. 1, Burgettstown, Pa.
or apply in person at ARNOLD
MINE on Rt. 931, 1 mi. east of
Frankfort Springs.



Local Advertisement
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 7, 1937 Edition



**Coal Miners with Sunshine Lamp on his Hat.
John Lawson, photo taken before 1908**

CONSIDER PLAN FOR AVELLA MINE

According to a plan reported presented to Washington for consideration, a large new coal mine would be opened in the Avella district.

The plan apparently was given to the ICC and the RFC and involved debt consolidation of the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad Company, an extension of the maturity of the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation bonds in so far as the guarantee of the railroad company is concerned and at least one phase of a proposed reorganization of the coal company itself.

The coal company, it appears, is the owner of considerable acreage in the Avella district and had been mining there through No. 9 at Avella. This operation was shut down more than a year ago because, it is said, of a high cost factor. In the same area, at Acme, Pa., there is a coal washer operated by the Acme Coal Cleaning Company, the stock of which is owned by the railway company.

This washer had been, and is currently being operated, as a community washer for coal mined in that area.

As a part of the reorganization of Pittsburgh Terminal Coal, an entirely new mine would be opened with the shaft adjacent to the washer, which would permit economies in the mining and washing of the coal. The railroad interest, of course, arises from an increased coal haul it would obtain from the opening of a large new operation.

It is the reported aim to secure a \$1,000,000 loan from the RFC in connection with the coal operation. In the meantime, according to Washington information, the railroad's counsel advised the ICC bureau of finance that Metropolitan Life Insurance Company officers had indicated a willingness, subject to the approval of their committees, to go along with a 15-year extension of the Pittsburgh Terminal bonds.

The life insurance company was indicated to own \$1,765,000 of the \$2,564,000 coal company bonds.

The railroad's plan of debt consolidation involves loans which would aggregate \$7,400,000 on June 1. The plan provides Pennroad Corporation and the RFC take equal participation of \$3,000,000 of the consolidated loan with, it is assumed, the banks taking the remainder. The railroad's net this year is higher than in the 1939 period, and would have been still higher, it is said, were it not for maintenance expenditures which are the highest in several years. Such expenditures are for operating efficiency.

Consider Plan for Avella Mine
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 2, 1940 Edition

COURT ORDER CLOSES TWO COAL PLANTS

PITTSBURGH,—Federal Judge Robert M. Gibson today pronounced a formal requiem for two mines of the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co., which once were among the biggest producers of bituminous in the Pittsburgh district.

In an oral order, Judge Gibson granted permission to abandon operations at the Mollenauer No. 3 and Horning No. 4 mines of the company which has been in receivership since 1939. The order will be put in writing later.

Baker said operations will continue at the company's No. 8 mine at Coverdale, which has about enough coal for one year's operation.

The trustee said the company is considering opening a new operation in the Avella, Washington County, field, but that nothing definite has been done to this end.

DICKERS IN DIRT

September 17, 1941. John M. Todd administrator of D. S. Taylor et al., late of Smith Township, to Kenneth B. Colteryahn, Burgettstown, 258 acres and 75 perches in Smith Township; \$1.

October 27, 1941. J. V. Stevenson, Smith Township, to James S. Kerr, Oakdale, 230 acres in Smith Township \$1,250.

October 18, 1941. Joseph H. Quinnet et ux., Harmony, to Edwin Wagner et ux., Burgettstown, a lot fronting 47 feet on Church avenue, Burgettstown; also a lot fronting 67.5 feet on Church avenue, Burgettstown; \$1.

October 28, 1941. Ford Ralston et ux., et al., Hanover Township, to Edward Simon et ux., et al., Pittsburgh, 207.5 acres Hanover Township \$1.

November 13, 1941. Pittsburgh Coal Co., Pittsburgh, to Charles H. Muse et al., Ben Avon, 59.648 acres in Smith Township; \$32,000.

October 20, 1941. T. Wray Greeg, Carnegie, to Frank D. Lieske et al., Langeloth, a tract of the Pittsburgh Coal in Smith Township; \$1.

August 6, 1941. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Raleigh F. Allison et ux., Verner, Smith Township, 1.322 acres in Smith Township; \$1.

May 15, 1941. William Ulrich et ux., Washington, to James O. Butler et ux., Burgettstown, a lot, 60 by 100 feet, South Florence road, Burgettstown; \$1.

November 27, 1941. T. Wray Greer Carnegie, to Michael Duran et ux., Smith Township, 81.221 acres in Smith Township; \$1.

DICKERS IN DIRT

July 11, 1941. Joseph Cenish to Thomas Skof et ux., all of Burgettstown, a lot, 75 by 100 feet, Stella street, J. Winfield Reed Plan, Burgettstown; \$1.

June 12, 1941. James Wallace et ux., Midway to Mrs. Lillie Campbell, Midway, a lot, 56 by 140.46 feet, Brabson street, Midway; \$1.

May 8, 1941. Oliver M. Close et ux., Burgettstown, to Eugene Tucci et ux., Midway, a lot, 50 by 120 feet Hindman avenue, Burgettstown; \$350.

May 1, 1941. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Peter Hnath, Joffre, 0.30 of an acre in the Armide Mine plan, Smith Township; \$20.

July 9, 1941. H. C. Campbell, administrator of James B. Campbell, to Harmon Creek Coal Corporation, 105 acres in Hanover Township; \$1.

June 26, 1941. Oliveretta McNall Proudfit, Youngstown, Ohio, to Leonard Sasso, Pittsburgh, two tracts of land in Smith Township, containing 87 acres and three acres; \$1.

February 27, 1941. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to John Leonard, et ux., Studa, 0.41 of an acre at Studa, Cross Creek Township; \$300. Also to Mrs. Anna Kolesar, Studa, Ohio, 0.41 of an acre at Cedar Grove Mine, Cross Creek Township; \$300.

June 30, 1941. J. G. Leipold et ux., Robinson Township, to Sunnyhill Coal Co., Dormont, 164 acres of the Pittsburgh coal in Robinson Township \$6,500.

June 25, 1941. Nannie Olive Bonner et con., Smith Township, to Climax Molybdenum Company of Pennsylvania Langeloth, 4.6485 acres in Smith Township; \$1,200.

May 31, 1941. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Penowa Coal Co., Pittsburgh, 4.34 acres of the Pittsburgh coal, Smith Township; \$1.

July 1, 1941. John Martincek, Chartiers Township, to Paul Likar et ux., Cross Creek Township, four lots in the W. J. Brown Plan No. 3, Avela, Cross Creek Township; \$1.

May 1, 1941. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Stanley Dominiski et ux., Atlasburg, 0.19 of an acre in Smith Township; \$25.

June 19, 1941. Claude Ferguson et ux., Jefferson Township, to Jefferson Coal and Coke Co., Pittsburgh, 200 acres in Jefferson Township; \$1.

June 13, 1941. Dian Sutherland, Follansbee, W. Va., to Claude Ferguson, Jefferson Township, 200 acres in Jefferson Township; \$2,100.

June 17, 1941. Peter Miller, Smith Township, to Fred P. Miller et ux., Smith Township, 157 acres and 103 perches in Smith Township; \$1.

March 29, 1941. Elda Taylor, et con., et al., Wilkinsburg, to Frank Kosem et ux., Midway, a lot, 120 by 175.66 feet, North avenue, and a lot fronting 60 feet on Brabson street, Bell Plan, Midway; \$1,350.

June 4, 1941. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to W. J. Whalen Jr., Burgettstown, 82.07 acres in Smith Township; \$2,000.

June 24, 1941. Ernest J. Dewell, et ux., to D. M. Cummins et ux., Washington, a lot, 40 by 140 feet, Robb Run Road, J. D. Sauters' Plan Robinson Township; \$1.

June 18, 1941. Helene M. Murphy et con., to Edna M. Westlake, all of Burgettstown, a lot, 20 by 120 feet, Hindman avenue, Burgettstown; \$1.

June 18, 1941. Mildred Stetar, Smith Township, to Matthew W. Murphy et ux., Burgettstown, a lot, 20 by 120 feet, Hindman avenue, Burgettstown; \$1.

December 2, 1940. Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to John Hluka, Joffre, 0.75 of an acre at Armide Mine, Smith Township \$400.

September 13, 1940 — George F. Stroud et al., Hanover Township, to Fred Miller et ux., McDonald, the Pittsburgh coal underlying a lot 100 by 153.44 Steubenville Pike, Hanover Township; \$1.

December 2, 1940—Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Primo

Caleffe et ux., Studa, 2 acres fronting on the Burgettstown-McDonald Road, Smith Township; \$185.

May 26, 1941—William P. Russell et ux., to Harvey Miller Russell et ux., 114.8489 acres in Robinson Township; \$2,500.

May 1, 1941—Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Geiseppe Massimino, et ux., Studa, one acre at Cedar Grove Mine, Cross Creek Township; \$50.

June 10, 1941—Annie V. Forney to Steve Bertovich, both of Jefferson Township, three tracts of land in Jefferson Township, containing 196.16 acres, 1978 acres and 9.67 acres; \$1.

June 9, 1941—Oakdale Savings and Loan Association, Oakdale, to Stephen J. Leytrick et ux., Robinson Township, a lot, 40 by 140 feet, Meadow street, J. D. Sauters Plan, Robinson Township; \$1.

August 26, 1940—Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Thomas Evanosky, Atlasburg, 0.19 of an acre at Atlas Mine, Smith Township; \$400.

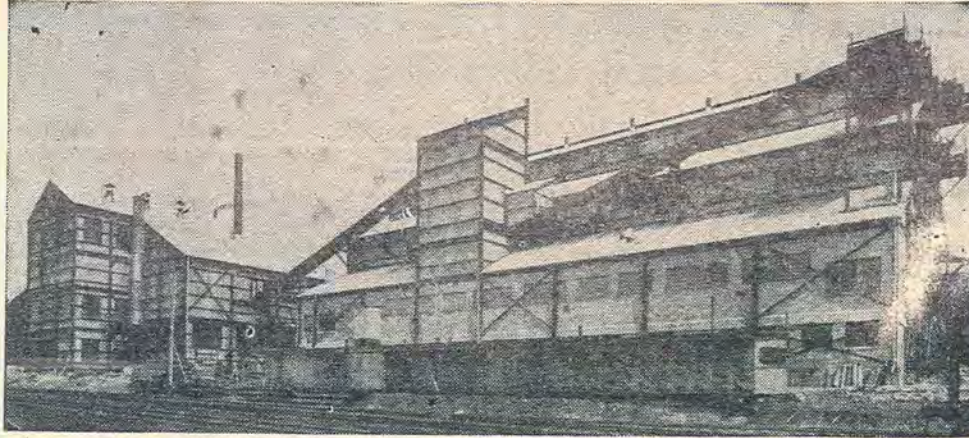
May 16, 1941—Margaret J. Wilson, administratrix of Albert C. Studa, late of Burgettstown, to Joseph Andy et ux., Washington, a small tract of land on the Washington-Hickory highway, South Strabane Township; \$3,000.

October 11, 1940—Carnegie Coal Corporation, Pittsburgh, to Charles Toth et ux., Studa, 0.46 of an acre in the plan of Cedar Grove Mine, Cross Creek Township; \$182.50. Also to Julia Kormos, Studa, 0.1 of an acre in the plan at Cedar Grove Mine; \$162.50.

Dickers in Dirt

Burgettstown Enterprise-July 31, 1941 Edition

View Of Disco Company Near Champion Coal Washer; Imperial World's Largest Plant For Producing Smokeless Fuel In Operation

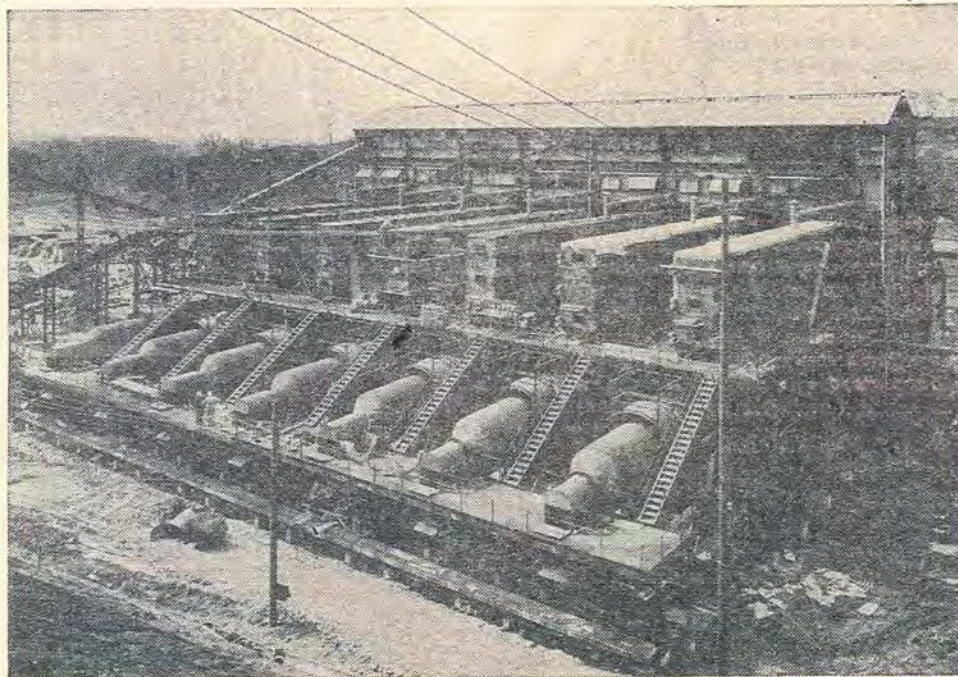


THE DISCO COMPANY'S NEW SMOKELESS FUEL PLANT

These are two recent photographs of the world's largest plant for the production of smokeless solid fuel from coal by low-temperature carbonization. It is the new plant of the Disco Company, subsidiary of Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Co. It is located 19 miles west of Pittsburgh and occupies a 10-acre site adjoining the Montour Railroad.

The bottom view shows the heat drier building, at left, and the main process building. Cleaned and specially prepared coal is obtained from the nearby Champion coal cleaning plant and is passed, throughout the heat drier, then conveyed to the process building.

The lower view shows the discharge side of the process building. Heart of the process is the passage of the charge material through preheating ovens (located in tiers above the seven cylindrical carbonizers) and then through heated, rotating carbonizers. In the carbonizers distillation removes the smoke-producing volatile elements from the coal and forms balls of smokeless solid fuel.



Sheltered conveyors, a sheltered mechanical cooling wharf, automatic screening, blending and feeding devices and precision controls all are used to integrate a complex coal conversion process into a continuous flue method of producing-Disco smokeless solid fuel.

**Disco Company Begins Operation Near Imperial (pg. 1)
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 28, 1949 Edition**

Disco Company Begins Operation Near Imperial

Pittsburgh—The world's largest plant for producing smokeless solid fuel from bituminous coal by the low temperature carbonization process, was placed in operation here this month.

Built by the Disco Company, a subsidiary of Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Company, and located 19 miles west of Pittsburgh, the new plant will turn out, at capacity, from 25,000 to 300,000 tons annually.

The product of this new plant is known as Disco smokeless solid fuel and is made for use in hand-fired furnaces, stoves, grates, and fireplaces. It is processed from specially prepared bituminous coal from which the tar or smoke-producing substance is removed by distillation during the carbonizing process. The product is prepared in two uniform sizes, furnace and stove. The company states that "Disco" is a lightweight, highly reactive fuel, which is easily ignited but will hold fire for a long period of time when desired.

Disco smokeless fuel is not a new product. According to the company, the process for making it was developed by Pittsburgh Coal Company, a constituent company of the present Pittsburgh Consolidation firm, in the period between 1926-1936. Production on a small scale was begun in 1933 and by 1936, with three small experimental units then in operation, the company had a capacity of approximately 70,000 tons annually.

Commenting on plans for distribution of the output of the new and commercial-size plant, Carl E. Leshner, president of the Disco Company, said:

"Disco smokeless fuel has had an enthusiastic acceptance in more than 100 communities in the northeastern United States and Canada. The much larger tonnages produced in the new plant will enable us to increase the supply throughout this territory, where we have never been able to meet the demand with the limited supply heretofore available".

"Another advantage of the new plant," Mr. Leshner said, is that it will enable us to pass on to consumers certain savings from improved efficiency and larger scale operation. Present estimates of operating costs prompt us to offer the output of the new plant, effective Monday, April 11, at a price per ton F.O.B. the plant, more than \$2.00 under that produced and sold from our experimental plant".

At the same time, the company reported that this lowering of price will be accompanied by improvements in quality. "These quality improvements," Mr. Leshner said, "include a lower ash content, a firmer structure to the fuel, and dustproofing, all of which will make 'Disco' a more convenient fuel while retaining its smokeless and easy-to-burn characteristics".

Construction of the large coal processing plant was started in the summer of 1947 and, according to the company, it will be at full capacity production in ample time for the 1949-50 heating season.

Among those who witnessed the opening of the plant was David L. Lawrence, mayor of the City of Pittsburgh, and more than 100 other city and county officials and business, labor, and civic leaders. Mayor Lawrence said:

"This new plant represents a distinct advance in the preparation of a satisfactory smokeless solid fuel for home heating purposes. The Pittsburgh district is fortunate to get the first commercial-size plant of this type for conversion of bituminous coal into a tailor-made and smokeless domestic fuel".

**Disco Company Begins Operation Near Imperial (pg. 2)
Burgettstown Enterprise-April 28, 1949 Edition**

DYNAMITE IS STOLEN FROM LANGELOTH JOB

**Feared Explosives Were Taken to
Be Used in Further Acts
of Striking Miners**

Ten cases of dynamite were stolen from a contractor's shed in the heart of the Washington county strike zone Tuesday night police reported Wednesday. Fear was expressed that the explosives were taken for use in further spreading terrorism in mining communities.

The dynamite was taken from a shed of the R. G. Johnston Co. of Pittsburgh which is constructing an air shaft for the Langeloth Coal Co. three miles southwest of Langeloth, between Slovan and Cedar Grove.

Undaunted, it is said, by the pitched battle with National Miners Sunday, leaders of the United Mine Workers of America announced they will hold another mass meeting at Canonsburg a week from Sunday, August 2nd.

At the same time Philip Murray, international vice president, and P. T. Fagan, district president of the United Mine Workers said they would demand state aid in an investigation to fix the responsibility for Sunday's disorder, in which several persons, including Fagan, were injured.

William Z. Foster, secretary of the Trade Union Unity League, said, in a statement issued by the National Miners, plans for a strike in Central Pennsylvania are being formulated, and announced a meeting at Johnstown next Sunday to draw up demands.

**Dynamite is Stolen from Langeloth Job
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 23, 1931 Edition**



View of Erie Mine from the hill above Fairview Cemetery



Pittsburgh & Erie Mine,
Burgettstown, Pa.

Pittsburgh & Erie Mine-Burgettstown, PA
Fairview Cemetery is in the background

Fort Vance Historical Society



About 1916-1917, Erie Mine at Burgettstown, from the hill above Ridge Road to Hickory. Looking northwest, the house in the upper right is Brida's. Berry house is just to the right, out of the picture. Signed Alvar



1915 Fayette Mine-Sturgeon, PA
Miners standing L-R: Don McGrady, Gene Lyons, and Bob Smith.
Miners seated L-R: Pat Duffy, Tom Casey, Nicholas Gareis.

FIRE BURNS WITHIN
FRANCIS MINE HOLDINGS

A raging fire broke out in the Two Face Section of the Francis Mine property of the Greensburg Coal and Coke Company last Wednesday evening and is reported as still burning. The mine was forced to suspend operations for two days until the section where the fire is burning was blocked off. The cause of the fire with damages estimated at several thousand dollars, is unknown.

**Fire Burns within Francis Mine Holdings
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 21, 1941 Edition**

FOUR LIVES ARE LOST IN EXPLOSION AT MINE

Thirty Miners Trapped by Blast of
Fire Damp at Wolf Run Mine
and Four are Killed

Trapped by an explosion of fire damp a half-mile under ground in the Wolf Run Colliery, an isolated coal mine about 15 miles north of Steubenville, on Thursday night of last week, four miners lost their lives and 26 other men at work in the operation were rescued alive after frantic work over the entire night.

The dead were identified as: Isaih Boone, 50, of Amsterdam, Ohio; Joseph Boone, his brother, 47, also of Amsterdam; Robert Russell, 24, of Bergholz, Ohio, and Albert James, 40, of Bergholz. Members of the families and friends of the entombed men crowded around the mine entrance for almost 10 hours while the rescue work was in progress by a squad of 50 men.

The explosion occurred in the number eight entry of the mine, and the workers who escaped were engaged in various parts of the workings at the time of the blast. They barricaded themselves behind canvas screens which served to close the entries from the fumes of the gas, which it is reported became ignited in some manner unknown in a fissure termed a "pocket."

A crew from the Bureau of Mines at Pittsburgh and squads from Roseville and Perry aided in the attempt to save the four victims and reach the men who escaped death. A number of men who made their way out of the mine a couple of hours after the explosion were partially overcome by gas and required emergency treatment.

The mine is owned by the Warner Collieries Co. of Cleveland, and employs about 350 men, but only 30 were at work on the night turn at the time of the accident. An explosion in the same mine occurred in 1930. At the time two men met death and several others suffered severely from gas.

Four Lives are Lost in Explosion at Mine
Burgettstown Enterprise-December 11, 1935 Edition



Francis Mine-1930

Fort Vance Historical Society

Two of the most prominent farmers in the Cross Creek Valley in the early days of Avella were Samuel S. Campbell and W. J. Brown.

Each laid out his farm in lots and sold them to those who eventually made Avella what it is today.

The section laid out by Mr. Brown became known as Browntown, a name that yet remains. It was here that Alexander Wells first established his mill in the late 1700s.

Campbell, on the other hand, laid out the lots where later the Avella Volunteer Fire Department and the Lincoln National Bank were built.

The "Campbell" house on the corner now is the home of James and Rose Geresti. The Campbell Theatre and the Presbyterian Church were also built on Campbell land.

Samuel Campbell was from the Campbell-Rea families, the original Campbells having first settled on what became later Serenity Farm.

From the "memories" of the late A.D. White: "Mr. Campbell was a large man, well-built and of commanding appearance. He had a good singing voice and sang at many community



KATHRYN SLASOR

gatherings.

He helped organize the Lincoln National Bank and served as its president. He was part owner of Avella Lumber and Supply, which remained in the Campbell family for two more generations. I remember him well."

Tragedy struck the S.S. Campbell family in the year 1899. During a storm that passed over Pattersons Mills,

Mrs. Campbell was struck by lightning and instantly killed. She had gone out to look after some young turkeys and was hurrying back to the house.

As she passed a locust tree, lightning struck it, the bolt running down the trunk and out a limb. It then struck her in the head and passed downward,

Further Historical Accounts of Avella's Early Days (Pg. 1)

PA Focus-December 4, 1999 Edition

Fort Vance Historical Society



Contributed

OLD AVELLA - This is the scene on Avella's Main Street, year unknown.

burning off part of her clothing. Mrs. Campbell's parents were James and Martha Stevenson Rankin.

An Avella man who is extremely well-versed in the area's history, especially that of mining, and who willingly shares his knowledge is Albert Stefkovich.

Mr. Stefkovich was born here, and made Avella his home his entire lifetime. He says he has lots of memories,

many pleasant, some unpleasant, and a few he classifies as just plain "bad."

One of the latter was the day his father was building the brattice wall in the Cedar Grove mine and the roof collapsed on him. He was severely injured and died a few days later. He was a bricklayer and a carpenter. Albert was 5 years old.

Countless families in the mining areas suffered the

same cruel fate. When the breadwinner left home with his lunch pail in the morning, the wife and children never knew whether or not he would return that evening.

"He was killed in the mine," is the only memory many have today, of their fathers and older brothers.

Details have been nearly lost to the little ones who remained to live a childhood life of poverty, but growing up with a deep appreciation of the good things that life brought later.

Mr. Stefkovich says that the entire Avella area was dotted with mine entrances, coal cars and tracks, and slate dumps. Groups of plainly built houses sprung up, creating a long list of mining camps.

In Cedar Grove was the Carnegie-Illinois Coal Company. In the area between Pattersons Mill and Avella were the three blocks known as Burgettstown Coal Company.

Nearby and adjacent to the Alex Paris home was the small operation known as Oak Hill. Donahue Mine was in the Gardner Street area. P & W was at the junction of routes 231 and 50, at the foot of Painter Hill.

Duquesne was in the area of the former Falleroni Store, in Browntown.

The "rooms" of Pryor Mine stretched under the vicinity of the Starinsky farm on Knox Hill.

The Waverly Mine was located near Seldom Seen, a locality that has always lived up to its name. It was near the West Virginia state line.

Jefferson Coal lay under the Miller farm. Penobscot Mine was on a knoll also near the state line, with its rooms stretching underneath several farms such as Cunningham, baker, and Pettibon, meeting the rooms of Jefferson Coal under the Habaly farm.

Tales have been passed down that when this writer's father and grandfather worked in the Penobscot Mine, they entered a tunnel or passageway near Kidd's Mill and walked underground to Penobscot.

This was supposedly a "short-cut." Mr. Stefkovich says that this no doubt was true, as there were many openings and passageways on many sides of many hills."

(Slasor is a special correspondent for the Pennsylvania Focus.)

Further Historical Accounts of Avella's Early Days (Pg. 2)

PA Focus-December 4, 1999 Edition

Fort Vance Historical Society

GOOD WORK PROMISED IN COAL MINING AREA

Coal Trade Conditions Improving
and Fairly Good Work Expected
for Winter Season

Steady employment for several hundred men throughout the winter months is foreseen in the announcement that the Aurora mine at Avella and the Eclipse mine, between Venetia and Thomas, have received orders which will be sufficient to insure full-time operation for an indefinite period. The Bertha mine, near Burgettstown, has just resumed operations with prospects of a long run.

The Aurora mine of the Duquesne Coal and Coke Co., which has been working steadily for the past few weeks, opened on a full time basis this week.

C. F. Southard, general manager, in making the announcement said:

"We are making plans so that the Aurora mine will work every day with full force throughout the winter. In this way we are doing our share to relieve the unemployment situation in the Avella district. We are going to employ local men first."

The Aurora mine will open the fire zone, in which two sections were sealed off when the mine was alleged to have been set on fire by strikers June 19th. These sections will be cleaned up immediately and made ready for work. Other new sections are being prepared for opening.

At present there are 175 loaders at work in the Aurora mine. It is understood that 100 more loaders will be employed. A total force of 310 men will be at work when the mine runs full time.

One of the most steadily working mines in this region is the Eclipse mine, between Venetia and Thomas, which has for some time been working almost full time. Orders, it is said, are such that the mine will continue working in full or nearly so for an indefinite period.

New York Woman Held on Sedition Charges; Five Swear She Urged Coal Strike Revolt

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Pa., March 7.— Miss Rebecca Grecht, 26, who says she is a New York City milliner, was held for court on a charge of sedition today by Justice of the Peace J. A. McKnight at Houston, after five State policemen had testified that she had urged hundreds of persons in the bituminous coal strike zone to revolt against the constituted authority. She was accused of having said in her addresses that she longed for the day when the "Soviet form of government" would prevail in the United States.

As a speaker of the Ohio-Pennsylvania Miners' Relief Committee, Miss Grecht has been appearing

throughout Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, attacking injunctions by courts and proclamations by sheriffs to restrict picketing of mines. She was arrested while addressing a crowd of 800 persons at Burgettstown on Monday.

Miss Rebecca Grecht has been active in radical labor circles in New York City for several years. She took an active part in the Sacco-Vanzetti demonstrations in Union Square, and in the textile strike in Passaic, N. J. As secretary of the Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born she was also active at anti-Fascist rallies here.

**Grecht Arrested while addressing Burgettstown Crowd of 800
New York Times-March 8, 1928 Edition**

Game Land Deed is Made.

The development of the movement for a game refuge in Hanover township, is shown by a deed that has just been left for record at the County Recorder's office at Washington. By the deed the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation transfers to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania two tracts of land in that township, one containing 1,350 acres and the other 959 acres. The consideration stated is \$6,928.

Game Land Deed is Made
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 25, 1936 Edition

**Harmon Creek
Coal Company
1956 Workshop-Tour
By Camille R. Ammons and Viola Laskowski**

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

HARMON CREEK COAL COMPANY

By 8:25 a.m., eighteen members of the workshop, the director, Dr. Bottell, and the assistant-director, Mr. Dupke, were assembled at the Washington High School –all eagerly awaiting the signal to be on our way to the Burgettstown area and whatever might be in store for us, in an exploratory manner.

Dr. Hal said, “Shall we use the word “Board” – we trekked our way onto the bus and were off in a few seconds.

We were not far out, when the missing person was identified as Angela Lonsway.

If sound of voices is an indication, everyone seemed to be enjoying the company of those nearby. Dr. Hal reminded us, though, that we should be observing.

A glance at the countryside as we traveled along left no doubt as to the occupation of the residents of that area and its topography—cattle and horses grazing on the rolling hills and the contour farming.

Going through Atlasburg, mounds red-dog were prevalent. Delfrate’s Packing Company place of business seems to be a familiar landmark to all on the bus as we passed it—according to the exclamations.

Mr. Dupke called attention to the high stack of the Climax Molybdenum Company which was plainly visible and which we were to visit later in the day.

(As you may have guessed—we are now in Slovan—I think.)

Dr. Hal spied “Filipponi’s Market” sign.

Our next town marked told us we were in Erie Mine, Pa. (I wonder how many saw the sign—also why the place was so named.)

9:00 A.M.

We have entered Burgettstown here our three enthusiastic members are waiting with a guess to join our explorations of the day.

At approximately 9:05, we arrived at the Harmon Creek Co. premises and were not met by Mr. Wade Vankirk, who of the day.

Note: The driving force behind the conversation program is James F. Hillman, president of the Harmon Creek Coal Co. and a devout conservationist. He is civic-minded and a philanthropist--donations by him anonymously.

Winding in and out, round and round we listened intently as Mr. Vankirk related the story of the reclaimed area. Two thousand seventy-five acres had been sold to the Pennsylvania Game Commission after stripping. He pointed out the rifle and pistol ranges, the game warden’s hut and also started that this was a public hunting ground describing it as a “hunter’s paradise”. After

passing through this reservation, we came to an adjoining area which is owned by the Harman Creek Coal Co., and the lake or dam which is enjoyed only by the employees and their families. (Mosquitoes also.) It is surrounded by numerous kinds of trees- some native and some imported. The Russian olive is an example of the imported ones. The lake was established in 1948 and is fed by the waters from the soil bank. The following sign is posted at the entrance: Daily Fishing (3 trout- 4 catfish- 3 bass-6 carp- 6 bluegill.)

A swinging bridge spans the lake – a novel experience for some in crossing Locust (trees) surround the lake and had been set in.

The trees are thinned out so there will space enough for those remaining to have enough air and plenty of sunlight. These trees include such species as hickory, maple, ash wild cherry, and dogwood. The “golden willows” around the lake were planted there. When asked about the planting, Mr. Vankirk said that out of one hundred planted, ninety-seven grew.

Note: Peering out as us from one of the wild cherry trees was a little chipmunk.

The company being responsible, no motor boats or swimming is allowed. Many species of birds are in this area also. Comments heard—“What a lovely place!” “An ideal spot to settle with a book! “etc.

The members interested in photography were granted an opportunity to test their skills. Many pictures were taken.

Mr. Vankirk said that down the hollow was Beaver Lake—and that last year there was a beaver there weighing fifty-five pounds. He also stated that three beaver dams were on this property in 1953.

As we passed an oil producing well, we learned that there were forty oil on the premises. The homes were not all abandon, one which remains was kept so that occupants might “watch”. The folks in this particular home are engaged in dairying. All coal rights have been reserved.

Question: Do you get trees from the Pennsylvania Forestry?

Answer: No, we have our own nursery.

Traveling about, Mr. Vankirk pointed out the trees that were planted last spring.

In 1956, the National Nurserymen’s Association granted the National Tree award to the Harmon-Creek Co. an also a citation was received from the Allegheny County Wild Life Conference for outstanding work over and above requirements.

Time out for phone calls.

As we waited in the bus, while telephoning was in progress, our guest, Miss Scott, told us of places nearby with odd-sounding names, “Push Finger Mill”

now Bavington, Miss Scott related was so oddly named because there was a mill, with a hole in the door where one put in a finger to lift the latch. "Plump-sock'n" now Woodrow, between Hickory and Avella, was so named because a lady once milking a cow, as the cow put her foot in the bucket of milk the lady said, "You put your foot in the bucket plump-sock."

"Slovan" was then discussed and it was stated that the two pioneer families were the Eastons and the Dunbars. The original name Eastonville, but because there was another place in Pennsylvania with the same name-it became necessary to change the name. It was called Slovan because so many of its early settlers were Slovaks.

The telephoning being completed, we proceeded on our way. Mr. Vankirk then pointed out the ridges planted in hardwoods and pines with grass between the trees. Food plots are placed for the game throughout the area. The pheasant pens were next on our Agenda. When we alighted from the bus enroute to the pheasant pens, a vegetable garden was pointed out and a dog kennel. The dog belongs to the coal company.

There were no trees planted in one particular space-- it was left an open field for the Junior Tri State Aviation enthusiastic or a speed area for model planes.

Food plots are placed for the game throughout the area.

Mr. Vankirk explained that all this work had been started by his predecessor Mr. Allison and is three-fold in purpose-namely: reforestation, better land practices, and reclamation.

The unwanted fowl are either trapped or shot. Five persons are employed in conservation during the spring and summer but only three during the remainder of the year. Corn and apples are raised for feeding purposes.

In the nursery are twenty-four beds of seedlings of hardwoods, softwoods, and shrubs. Some of the most spectacular being the native Chinese chestnut, pitch pine, jack pine, table mound and ornamental pines—the red or Norway spruce. The jack pine cones appear in the spring and are ready for harvest in the fall. The seed was bought from a New York Firm in the spring.

At the nursery, Mr. Eugene Vosburg from the Burgettstown newspaper took pictures of the group for publication.

As we were leaving the nursery, a black snake put its appearance.

In answer to the query of why do you have some many different species of trees, Mr. VanKirk answered that many botanists and college professors conduct field tours and may ask to see most any type of plant or tree. Here, we have them.

In the distance, could be seen a bee colony which is also a part of the work.

After having had a chance at many things and exploring several, we returned to Burgettstown about 11:25.

It has also been noted that contacts for Harmon Creek Coal should be made through Mr. Hillman at his Pittsburgh office.

Journalist, Camille R. Ammons

The operations at the Florence Mine of the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation have two facets; the stripping of the coal fields for money making purposes and reclamation of spoil banks for conservation purposes. The preceding paragraphs have described the reforestation program which has been highly successful largely because of the strong backing given to the program by the public-spirited president of Harmon Creek, J. F. Hillman. Originally the 5000 acres owned by Harmon Creek had their coal removed by deep pit methods but, since 1927, strip mining techniques have been used exclusively. (In this area, forty oil wells have also been put into production.)

In the operating end of the mining process, only about ninety men are employed because most of the work is done by machines. Muckers, or huge electric-powered shovels, remove the top soil until a coal seam is reached and they also serve as the core of each operating unit. There are three such shovels in operation at Harmon Creek and each one is accompanied by an augur-equipped truck that moves on top of and along the edge of the highwall. These augurs drill holes one hundred feet if necessary. These holes are filled with powder and the highwall is blasted until another area is prepared for the mucker. As this machine throws the thick cover over to the spoil bank, a diesel-powered bulldozer levels the top of the soil bank. When a 48-52 inch seam of coal is reached, a layer of rooster coal, which is usually valueless, has to be removed by a smaller diesel-powered shovel that sweeps the top of the coal seam. This wider layer of coal, without the benefit of anymore blasting, is loaded by the smaller shovel into diesel trucks which haul it five miles over Harmon-constructed roads to the cleaning plant. (Since no state or local roads are used, trucks need no licenses.)

There are two types of muckers used at Harmon Creek. The smaller shovel is assigned to the areas with coal seams reaching down less than eighty feet. This machine can work on a level below the drill level. It lifts the top soil up and throws it onto the spoil bank. The dragline mucker is more powerful and handles thicker cover often clearing high walls 120 feet high. It has 20 yard bucket that reaches down and bites the overburden in pincer fashion.

This shovel never operates under the drill level. Naturally, men that handle these machines are highly paid, often receiving \$5.00 an hour.

Our itinerary at Harmon Creek took the following pattern:

Stop 1-Harmon Creek Lake Park

Stop 2-Panorama of Strip Mining Operation

Stop 3-Route 22 Telephone Booth (for Gina Filipponi)

Stop 4-Harmon Creek Tree Nursery, and

Stop 5-Pheasant Farm

Journalist, Viola Laskowski
1956

Harmon Creek Coal Corporation

Reclamation and Land Use of Coal Stripped Areas

Land Use, Florence Mine, Harmon Creek Coal Corporation

By James F. Hillman

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

RECLAMATION AND LAND USE OF COAL STRIPPED AREAS

Land Use, Florence Mine, Harmon Creek Coal Corporation

At long last the need of conservation of national resources and the restoration of land disturbed by strip mining and other forms of surface mining are recognized by Pennsylvania and many other states as non-partisan tasks of high and immediate priority. Proper use of this stripped over land during and after reclamation is the theme I venture to develop.

My associates and I of this Harmon Creek company operate a strip mine in Washington County in Western Pennsylvania. We have had the good fortune to be able to cope successfully with the attendant restoration problems of strip mining since 1937, and during all the consequent years we coincidentally developed a complete land reclamation practice. After the high wall and the steeply precipitous mounds of earth incurred in strip mining were both contoured to an angle of repose there were planted grasses, legumes, trees, and shrubs. Of 5,066 acres presently owned by this company slightly over 2,300 acres have been mined and 2,240 acres reclaimed. In addition to the acreage in grasses and legumes over two and a half million trees and shrubs have been planted. A lake of approximately 12 acres of pure water has provided fishing facilities for the adjacent population. Two baseball fields, a recreational park with a large swimming pool, a model airplane field, and an area reserved for Boy Scout overnight camping have also been made available for the community. The end result has been the decision of a large corporation to build a manufacturing plant on property acquired from us. They were induced to build their plant there because of the many contiguous recreational areas.

A very significant factor in our operation is the increased use of our strip pits for the disposal of industrial waste material from an industrial plant located some 15 miles from our mining operation. This waste material, after being dumped in the strip pit, is covered with some 60 feet of earth from the high bank and the precipitous mounds of "spoil bank" which resulted from the mining procedure. We propose to increase this type of land use to include disposal of other types of waste material such as auto graveyard, etc.

We state the foregoing to give credibility to the following proposal.

In Pennsylvania and other coal-producing states where strip mining exists there are very large areas which have reverted to public ownership after the coal has been extracted. We propose that this publicly owned stripped over land be used for disposal of many forms of waste material as a component part of their land restoration in a manner akin to our procedure. Appropriate fees would be charged to the corporations and subdivisions of the State who would use this land for this waste disposal and thus greatly defray or perhaps eliminate the cost of the land reclamation.

There are also many thousands of acres in many areas of this country of unreclaimed stripped over land owned by individuals and corporations. We further propose, therefore, that the State make a study of the appropriate means to induce the owners of such stripped over land (even to the final step of exercising the right of eminent domain) to use the land for the economic disposal of industrial waste, automobile junkyard disposal, and municipal waste collections for the many cities and communities of the State. There is at least one large company which has developed a means of carrying municipal waste in specially designed containers which can be readily handled from the truck or freight cars to the final disposal area with one-man operation.

An article by Bruce Blossat, in the PITTSBURGH PRESS of August 2, 1965, on the torrent of problems discussed at the recent conference of governors, gave this stunning example: "California today spends an astonishing 330 million dollars a year just to get rid of wastes of all kinds -- sewage, industrial waste, etc. By 1990 it must spend one billion dollars for this purpose . . . and California is running out of land in which to bury such wastes."

Our rapidly increasing population has created the utter need of a proper and complete system of waste disposal in an efficient manner, and we submit the foregoing with the thought that it might in many localities be a partial or perhaps a complete solution of this problem.

James F. Hillman

Fire at Harmon Creek.

Fire in a machine shop at the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation works discovered about 10:30 o'clock last Friday night caused an alarm which was quickly responded to by the Burgettstown fire department, and the promptness with which the department was at the scene saved extensive loss. As it was, there was a loss of approximately \$3,000 before discovery of the blaze and the sending in of the alarm. The cause of the fire could not be determined. A banked fire in a boiler in the building was the only fire about the place, and it is considered unlikely as the source of the blaze.

Harmon Creek Coal Co. Improves' Baseball Field

8-22-46

Extensive improvements are being made this week to the McCormick ball field by the Harmon Creek Coal Co. The work is being supervised by Walter Robertson of Harmon Creek, who put two steam shovels to work filling in the low part of the field. This project at a cost of several thousand dollars is made possible through the generosity of the Harmon Creek Coal Co and its public spirited President, James F. Hillman.

The re-vamped ball field when completed will be one of the finest fields in the Panhandle district and will afford a fine ball diamond, plenty of parking space for automobiles and a playground section for children.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF PARK TO THE COMMUNITY
WILL BE MADE AT 11 O'CLOCK. ALL FACILITIES ARE FREE**

Outdoor Recreation Center Covers 72 Acres Woodlands

The formal public presentation of the Burgettstown Community Park and Pool for the pleasure and use of residents of this district will be made at the pool on Wednesday, July 4th at 11 o'clock. James F. Hillman, President of the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation will make the presentation to the members of the permanent Board of Directors, Rev. W. J. McCashin, President; W. P. Miller, Vice President; Lee R. McKinney, Secretary-Treasurer and Thomas C. Linn and W. J. Whalen, Jr.

A community picnic and Fourth of July Observance is planned for the opening day of the park. Following a brief presentation ceremony, the pool will be opened and the facilities of the picnic grounds placed at the disposal of those present. All facilities of the Park, containing 72 acres, will be entirely free and for the use of the public, with the exception of pool privileges. Season tickets at reduced rates because of the advanced season will be placed on sale on July 4th.

The board of Directors announces the following personnell will be in charge of park operation: Miss Ann McGregor, Park Manager and First Life Guard; Jack Miller, Assistant life guard; Mary Lee Puckett, cashier and Mary Plaza, refreshment stand clerk.

Although completion of many park projects will be delayed this year, many facilities will be ready for use on opening day. Water, state tested for purity has been piped from a well on the Harmon Creek Coal company's property to the pool and for fountains about the picnic grounds. Six ovens, picnic tables and chairs have been completed, and the park shelter is under roof. Recreational facilities will include see saws and swings for the children, two mushball diamonds and shuffleboard courts for others.

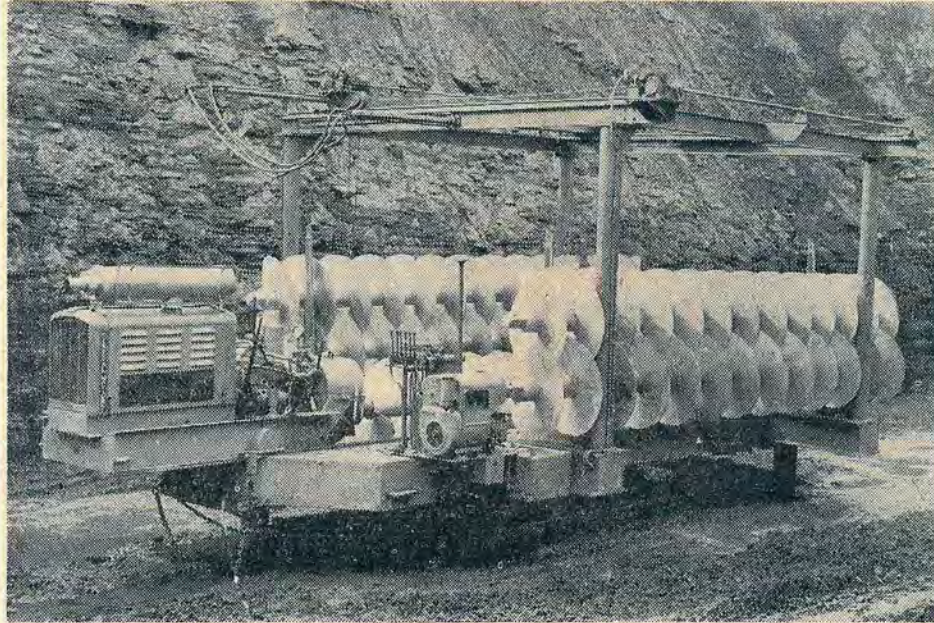
The Burgettstown Business Men's Association, American Legion and other civic organizations of the Community plan to participate in opening day ceremonies at Burgettstown's fine new park, made possible by the Harmon Creek Coal Corporation.



Harmon Creek electric shop and supply house, looking northwest from pheasant pen on Rt. 18

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Harmon Creek Experiments With New Type Borer Mining Equipment



Enterprise Photo

Harmon Creek Coal Corporation began an experiment in the Hanover township field on Tuesday morning, which again puts this company in the fore as a progressive pioneer in the use of modern methods for mining in the soft coal fields of Pennsylvania. A coal boring machine (pictured above) manufactured by the Salem Tool Company of Salem, O., has been installed to experiment with a new process which will remove coal by boring into the seam, and thereby eliminate the costlier process of deep mining stripping and blasting in certain areas. This machine is 32 feet long, 18 feet wide and 15 feet high and weighs about 40 tons. It will cut a 42 inch hole, 150 feet into a vein of coal. The sections of the drill 22 feet in length will be fastened together as they drill into the coal.

Nine hundred feet of coal face been prepared by Harmon Creek engineers to conduct this experiment. If the experiment proves successful, this method will take the place of stripping, particularly in heavy rock and dirt strata, where the vein lies too deep, heretofore to be mined at a profit. Harmon Creek has considerable acreage in the Hanover township field, where the coal in islands, left by stripping operations, may be profitably recovered. After the coal is removed, a dozer will back-fill with rock and dirt to seal the openings and to reclaim the surface for future use.

Harmon Creek Coal Corporation, which more than a quarter of a century ago attracted world wide attention by using one of the largest shovels in the world in its stripping operations in Burgettstown, has consistently been a leader in the use of modern methods in mining. The company, with James F. Hillman as president, is a nation wide leader in the reclamation of mined areas, and the reforestation of these areas. The company maintains a corps of experienced foresters who carry on a continuing program of reclamation and reforestation covering thousands of acres of land in this area. Last year the company built a large modern coal washing plant, which enabled it to compete in the retail field with high quality graded coal.

**Harmon Creek Experiments with New Type Borer Mining Equipment
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 20, 1952 Edition**

HARMON CREEK UNION DISTRIBUTES FUNDS TO GROUPS

Burgettstown groups benefited this week from the recent mine strike, when they received checks from the Harmon Creek Coal Company in the sum of \$1450, representing the operating cost of Florence Mine for the two days that the mine worked in June, without a contract between the operators and the United Mine Workers of America.

James F. Hillman, president and Superintendent C. Dean Saxton of the stripping operation at the edge of town, authorized officials of Local Union 7447 to make disposition of the money as follows:

First United Presbyterian church	\$100
First Presbyterian church	\$100
Westminster Presbyterian church	\$100
Our Lady of Lourdes Church ..	\$100
Italian Presbyterian church ---	\$100
Colored Baptist church	\$100
Friday Club	\$100
Junior Woman's Club	\$100
Burgettstown Vol. Fire Dept....	\$100
Lion's Club	\$100
American Legion	\$100
Boy Scout Troop, No. 1	\$ 50
Boy Scout Troop, No. 2	\$ 50
Girl Scout Troop	\$ 50
Sea Scouts	\$ 60
Infantile Paralysis Fund	\$ 70
Tuberculosis Fund	\$ 70

v

**Harmon Creek Union Distributes Funds for Groups
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 1, 1943 Edition**

The Hillman Coal Company on Thursday agreed to abide by provisions of the Guffey Act, marking the first break in the ranks of the "Big Four" firms which have opposed the measure in the Pittsburgh area. The Hillman group includes four firms, Hillman Coal & Coke, Emerald Coal, Thompson Connellsville Coke & Hecla Coal & Coke. The annual total production is about 1,110,000 tons. The three principal "holdouts" in this district now are the Pittsburgh Coal Company, one of the Mellon interests, the Westmoreland Coal Company and the Union Collieries Company.

Hillman Coal Company
Burgettstown Enterprise—November 13, 1935 Edition

TO OPERATE DEEP MINE AT BERTHA

The Hope Coal Corporation, a company formed of local men has secured control of the holdings of the Hillman Coal Corporation at Bertha Mine and expects to resume deep mine operations this month. Employment will be available for 20 men.

Officers of the Corporation are President, Frank Slack of Bulger, formerly in charge of the deep mine of the Dowlin Co. at Hookstown; Vice president, John Antosh, Westland; Secretary, Nick Bozic, Burgettstown, R. D. 3; Treasurer, George Bozic, Bulger and assistant secretary-treasurer, Joseph Bozic of Midway.

The property includes 346 acres of deep coal in Jefferson township and before it was purchased by Hillman interests was operated by Chieftan Coal Co. The deal was consummated by Thomas Watson, representing the Hillman Coal Corporation of Pittsburgh.

ELDERSVILLE MAN IS MINE VICTIM

A former Eldersville man was a victim of the explosion in the Willow Grove Coal Mine, near Bellaire, O., on Saturday, March 16.

Howard Byron Sanders, 51, a native of Eldersville, was killed by black damp when he rushed into the mine to start rescue work.

Howard Byron Sanders, outside foreman at the mine, who, with Superintendent John Richards, dashed into the mine in a vain attempt to start rescue work, was born August 23, 1888, in Jefferson Township, near Eldersville. He was a son of the late Byron J. and Margaret Hooker Sanders. He left Eldersville 32 years ago, lived for a number of years in Follansbee, W. Va., where he worked in a steel mill, and lived in St. Clairsville for the last eight or 10 years.

He was a member of the St. Clairsville Presbyterian church.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Mary Burris Sanders; three daughters, Mrs. Ruth Verwholt, of Lancaster; Miss Jane Sanders, of Columbus, O., and Miss Letitia Sanders, at home; two brothers, William, of Eldersville, and Edward, of Mansfield, O., and three sisters, Mrs. William Lake, of Mansfield, O., and Miss Lulu Sanders and Mrs. Alfred Krager, of Follansbee, W. Va.

The body was removed to the Johnston Funeral Home, at St. Clairsville, where funeral services were held Tuesday, March 19, at 2:30 o'clock. Burial was at Mt. Pleasant, O.

Howard Byron Sanders
August 23, 1888-March 16, 1940

**IDLE PENOWA MINERS
IN DEPLORABLE STATE**

**Claim Wages Have Not Been Paid
Leaving Many Families
Entirely Destitute**

Mrs. Stella Lane, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Lillian Lane, the latter a member of the Board of Poor Directors of Washington county, went to Penowa Monday to investigate conditions in the homes of miners in that settlement.

This action follows the pilgrimage to Washington last Friday of approximately 50 miners employed by J. W. Stephenson & Co., Inc., of Johnstown, operating the old Waverly mine at Penowa, the men claiming that they had not been paid for their work in more than six weeks.

Telling stories of destitution in their homes and of the closing of the store operated by the company, the only place at which they could secure credit, the miners appealed to the county authorities for assistance. They asked advice regarding legal action and, also, petitioned the Board of Poor Directors for further foodstuffs to relieve their dire distress.

Continuing their efforts to obtain aid in their attempt to collect wages of nearly \$4,000, alleged due, a group representing the miners Saturday morning visited the Pittsburgh offices of the Department of Labor and Industry, in an effort to have proper methods of procedure in pressing their claims.

Mrs. Lane visited the mining settlement on Monday prepared to thoroughly investigate conditions and make a report to county relief agencies on the deplorable situation said to exist there. According to the story of the miners, they were forced to pay exorbitant prices for food at the company store, now closed.

Inspect Penowa Mine

In a safety report issued today by the Bureau of Mines, a Federal coal-mine inspector suggests several additional safeguards and credits some recent improvements at the Penowa Coal Company's 1,200-ton-a-day Sasso No. 1 mine, in Jefferson Township. A stripping operation, the mine employed 63 men when it was examined in June by Inspector Robert T. Davis.

Beneficial changes listed for the mine included improved house-keeping in the repair shop, display of a warning sign near the explosives magazine, approved transportation of explosives, installation of electric light wiring in the truck shop in conduit, grounds for switch boxes and shop electrical equipment, and placing of a warning device on the coal-loading shovel.

A warning device should be provided for the 2-yard stripping shovel, a suitable sign should be displayed near the detonator magazine, and drills and other hand-held electric tools should be frame grounded, Inspector Davis stated.

He also recommended safe surface storage of lubricants, clean areas around the explosives and detonator magazines, guards for exposed belts, first-aid supplies in the pit, and wearing of safety-toe footwear by all employees and protective hats by those likely to be endangered by falling objects.

Inspect Penowa Mine
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 12, 1948 Edition

INSPECT MULLETT MINE

Commending about a dozen recent safety improvements at the 2,200-ton-a-day Mullett No. 3 mine at Burgettstown, a Federal coal mine inspector at the same time proposes several additional safeguards in a report released today by the Bureau of Mines. Operated by the Mullett Coal Company, Inc., this mine employed 117 men when O. V. Simpson reinspected it in June.

Summarizing recent beneficial changes, Inspector Simpson commended the screened ventilator and warning signs for the explosives magazine, several safeguards for the explosives truck, approved testing of electric detonators, shunting and staffering the firing line, firing charges immediately after loading holes, insulators for the tibble wiring, frame-grounds for the switch boxes and motor in the tibble and shops, fuses for the shop lighting circuit at the pit, and effective guards for the tibble chain and belt drives.

To increase operating safety, Inspector Simpson recommended a bulletproof, fire-resistant detonator magazine, added mechanical safeguards, adequate first-aid materials in the pit, good housekeeping in the tibble, and toeboards for the elevated walkway between the tibble and refuse bin. He also advised the wearing of protective hats, footwear, and goggles by all men needing them.

**JEFFERSON C & C MINE
IS INSPECTED RECENTLY**

Although commending about a dozen recent safety advances at the 2,000 ton-a-day Hanlin strip mine at Burgettstown, Washington County, Federal coal mine inspectors proposed further precautionary measures in a report released today by the Bureau of Mines. Operated by the Jefferson Coal and Coke Corporation, this mine employed 132 men when Robert T. Davis and W. R. Melville reinspected it in February.

Inspectors Davis and Melville recommended sloping the highwall banks as much as possible and removing loose material and overhanging rocks in one part of the pit, safe installation of electric-light wiring in the shop, frame-grounds for ungrounded electric equipment, several mechanical safeguards, and the wearing of protective hats and shoes by those employees needing them.

Recent improvements included short-circuiting and staggering the blasting cable, warning signs at the No. 1 strip entrance, wearing protective goggles for eye-hazardous work, added first-aid supplies, a frame-ground for the tippie light switch, and a handrail and a boom walkway where needed.

Blasting was safely conducted, and coal was hauled by truck to the tippie for preparation and shipment, the inspector reported.

**Jefferson C & C Mine Inspection
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 17, 1949 Edition**

**JEFFERSON MINE
IS COMMENDED**

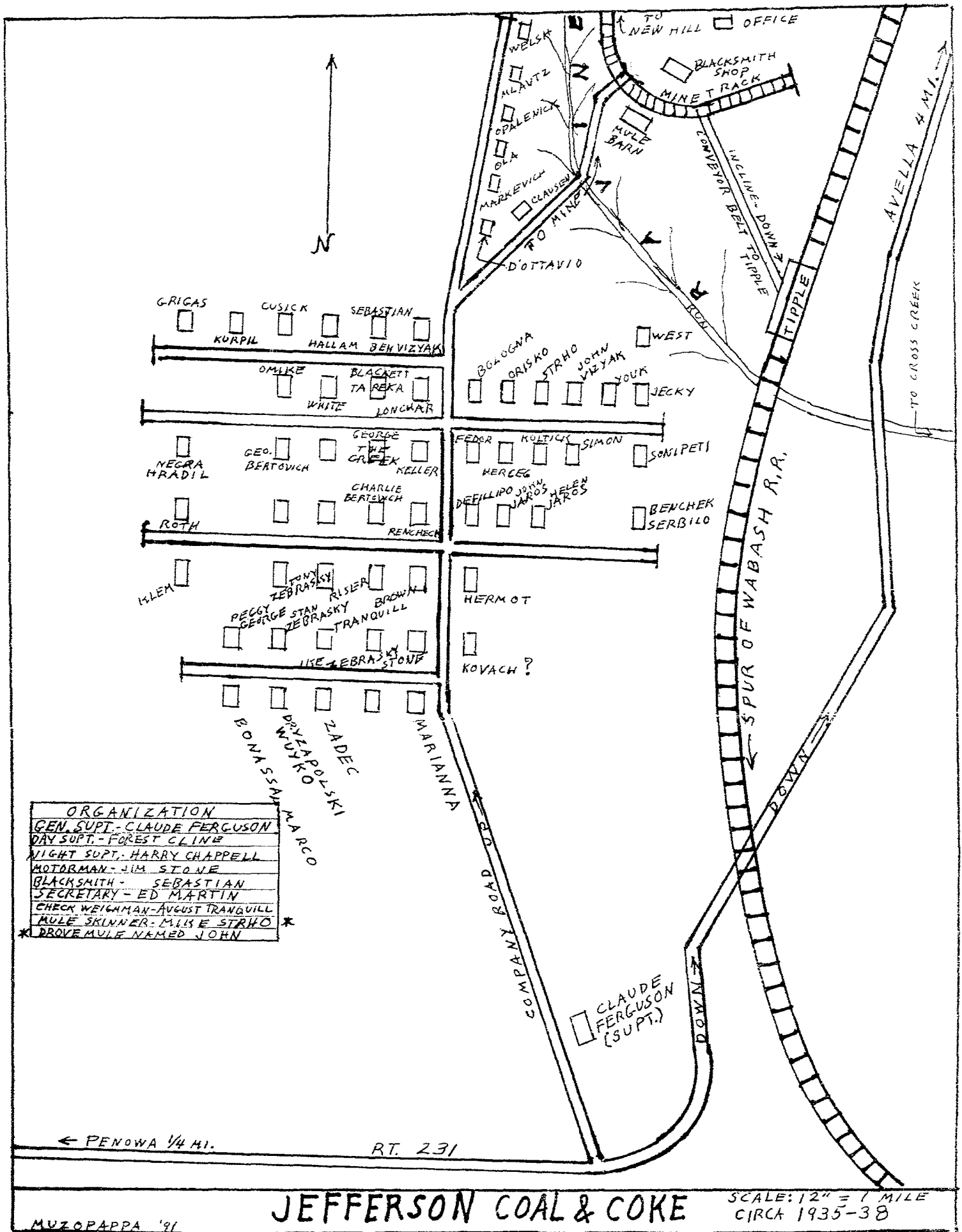
The generally good compliance with Federal Mine Safety Code standards at the 600-ton-a-day Jefferson No. 1 mine of the Jefferson Coal and Coke Corporation is commended in a Government inspection report issued by the Bureau of Mines. Numerous recent safety improvements also are listed in the report.

Situated about three miles west of Avella, the mine employed 99 men when it was examined early in November by Inspector L. M. Morelli pursuant to the Krug-Lewis agreement of May 29, 1946.

**Jefferson No. 1 Mine is Commended
600 Ton-a-day
Burgettstown Enterprise-February 3, 1947 Edition**

Jefferson Twp. Coal Mining Town Maps

Courtesy of For Vance Historical Society

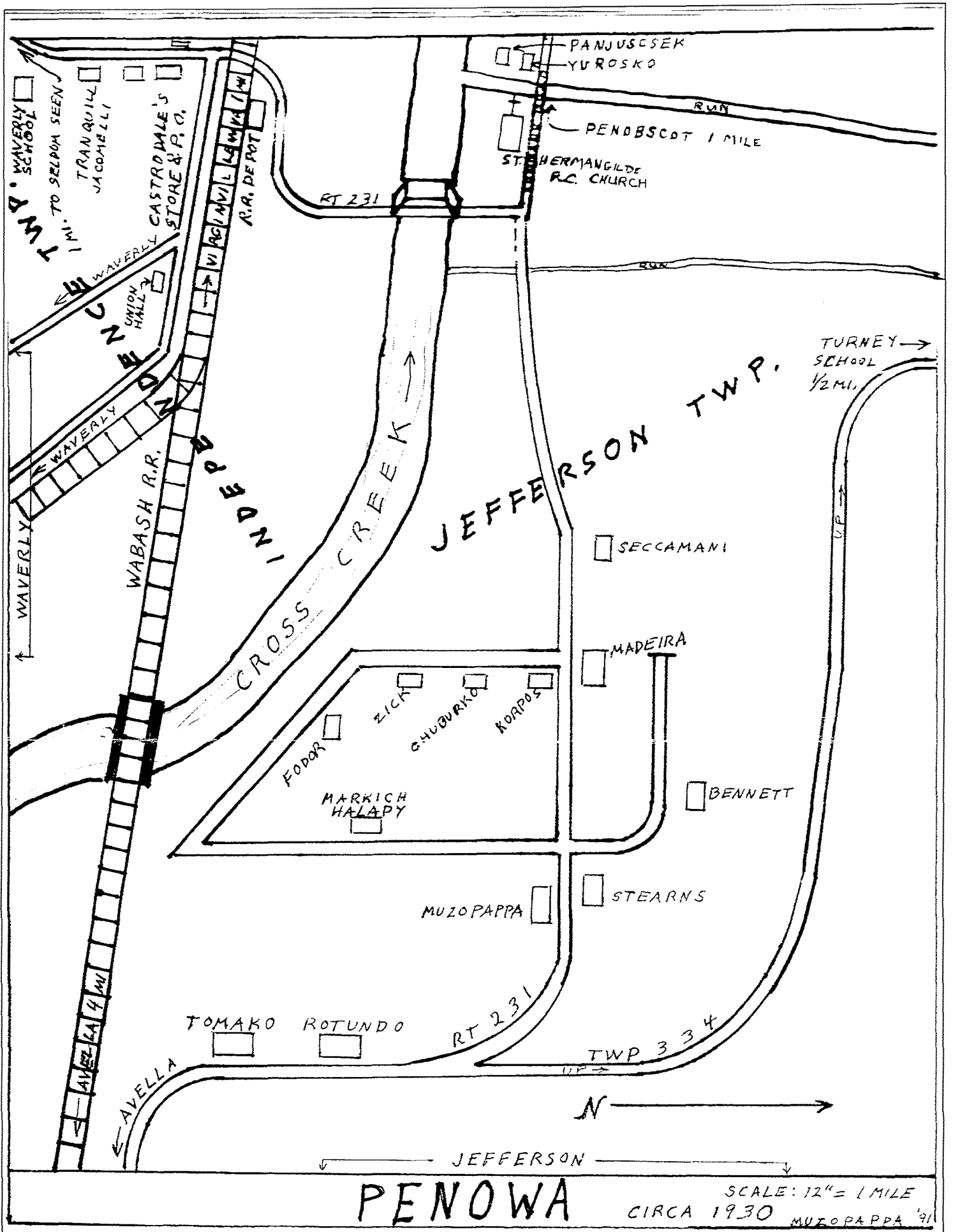


ORGANIZATION	
GEN. SUPT.	CLAUDE FERGUSON
DAY SUPT.	FOREST CLINE
NIGHT SUPT.	HARRY CHAPPELL
MOTORMAN	JIM STONE
BLACKSMITH	SEBASTIAN
SECRETARY	ED MARTIN
CHECK WEGMAN	AUGUST TRANQUILL
MULE SKINNER	MILIE STRHO *
* ABOVE MULE NAMED JOHN	

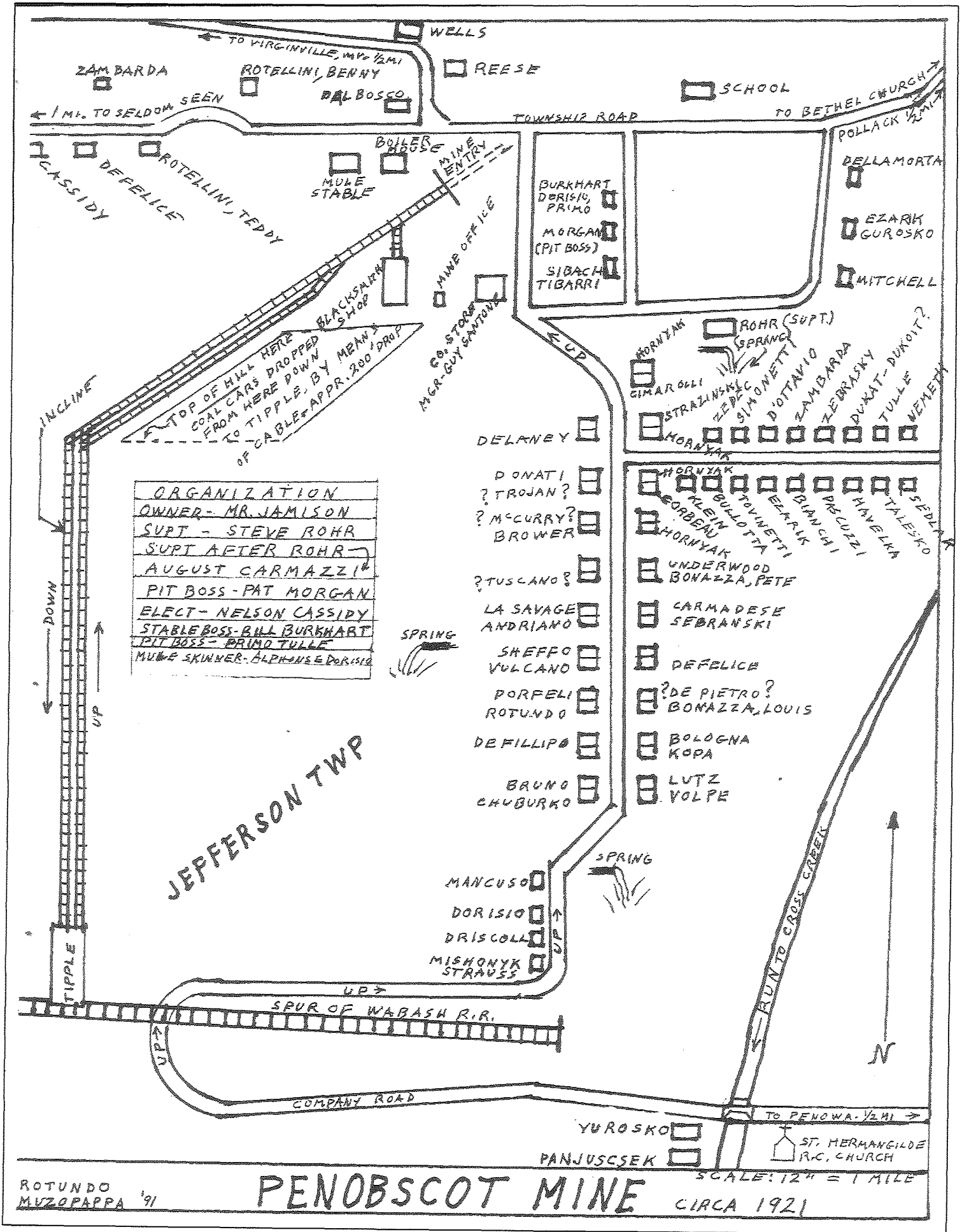
JEFFERSON COAL & COKE

SCALE: 12" = 1 MILE
CIRCA 1935-38

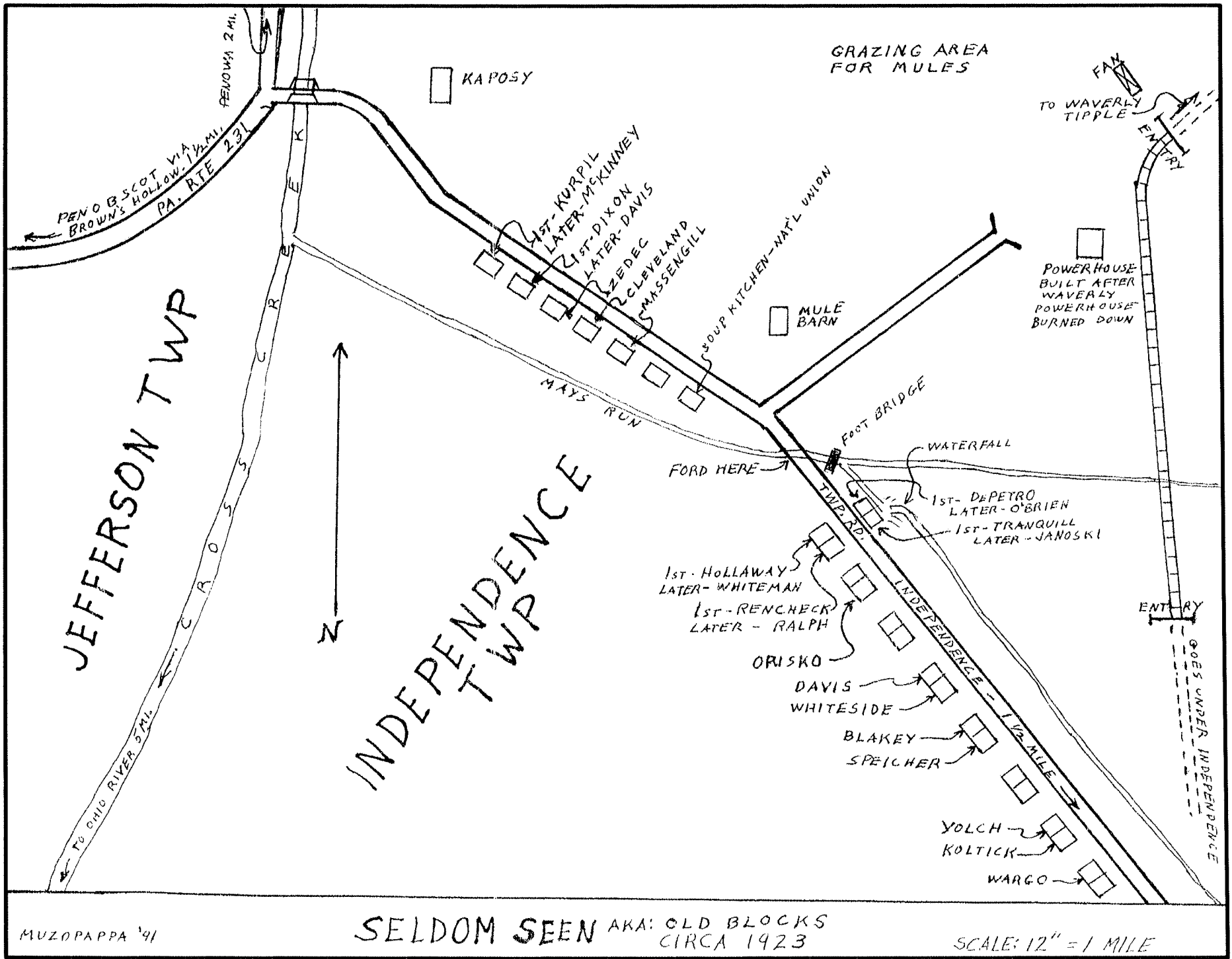
MUZOPAPPA '91



Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

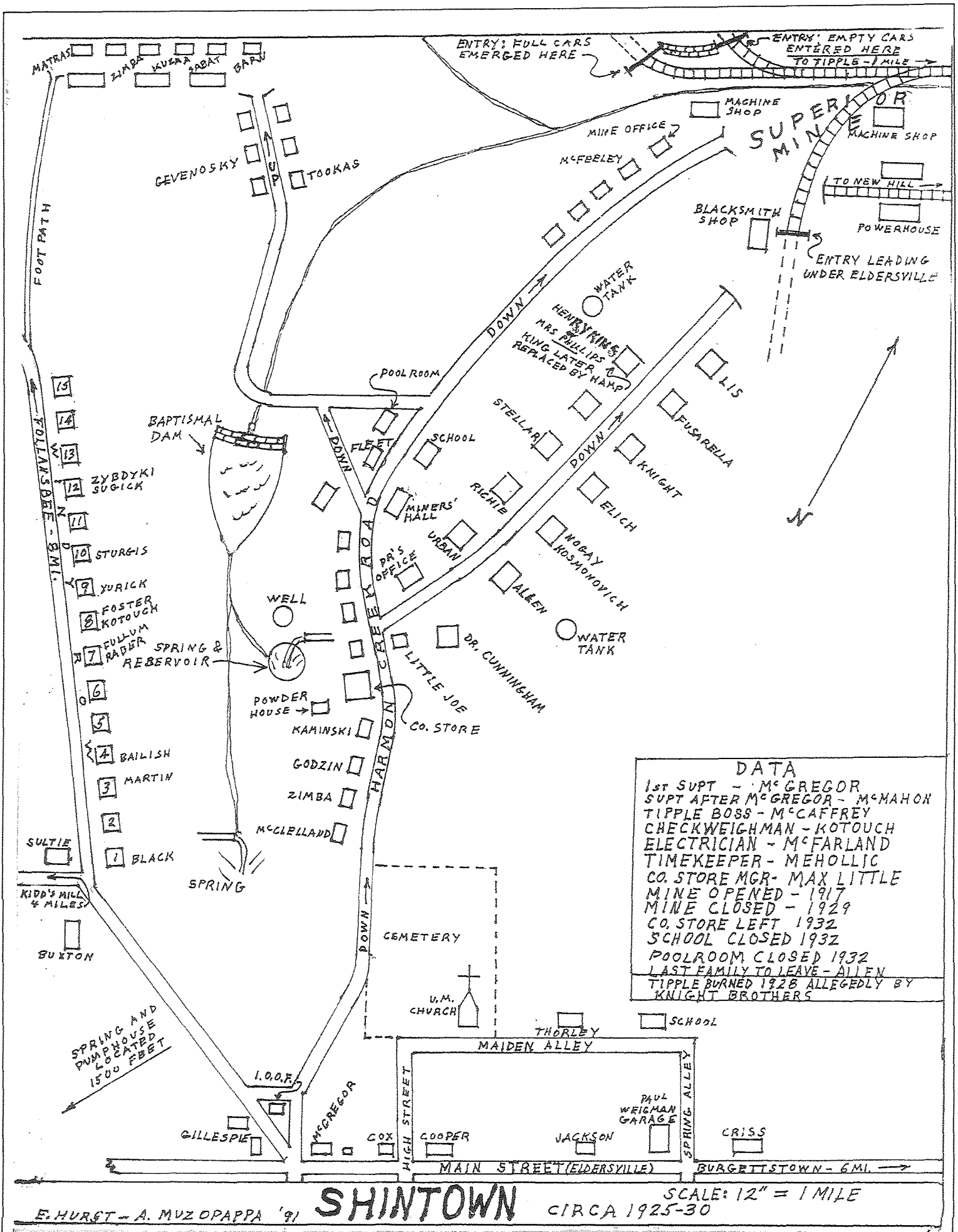


MUZOPAPPA '91

SELDOM SEEN AKA: OLD BLOCKS
CIRCA 1923

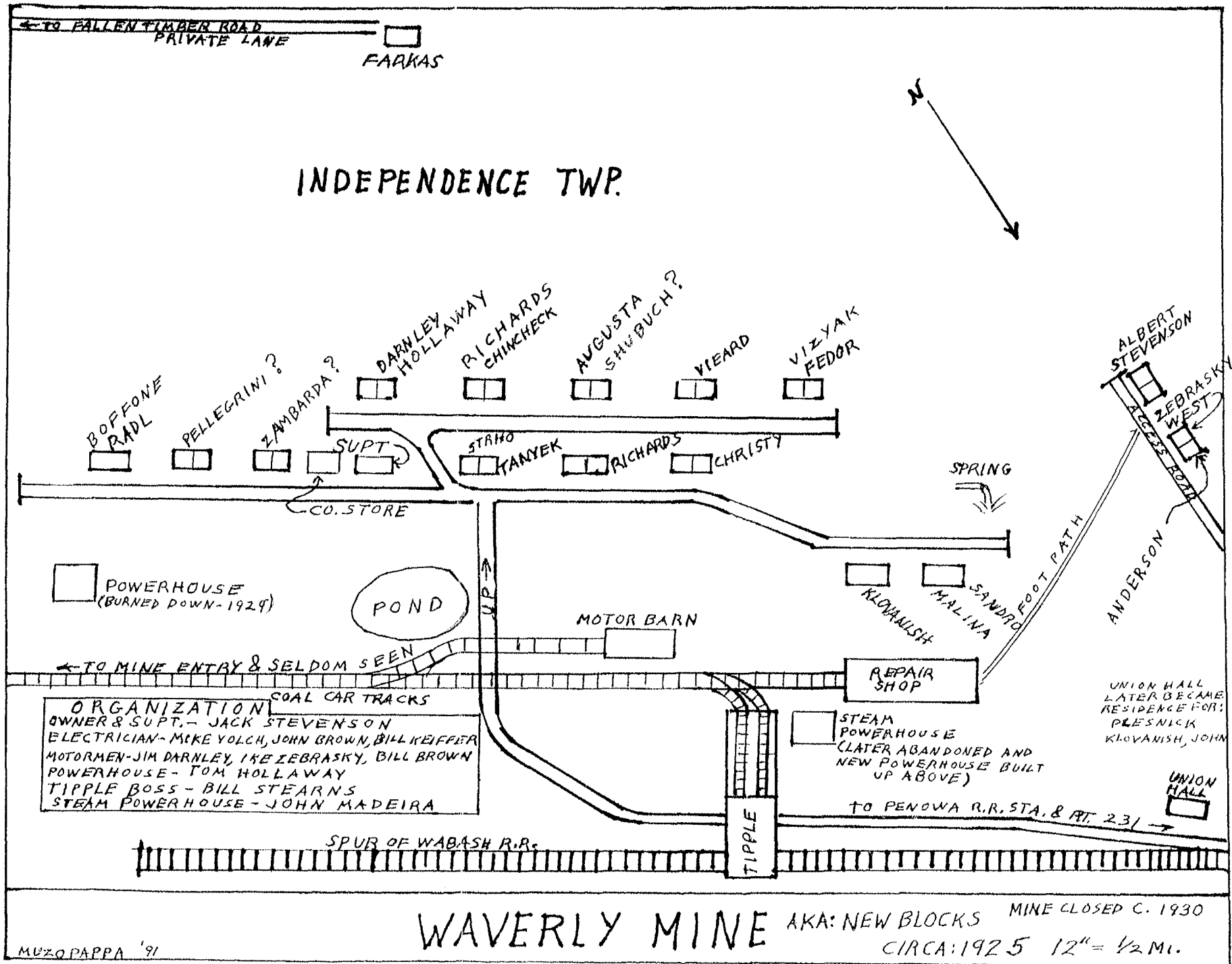
SCALE: 12" = 1 MILE

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



SHINTOWN

CIRCA 1925-30



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that PENN-WEIR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY has made application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Post Office Box 2063, 7th Floor, Fulton Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120, for a Mine Drainage Permit to discharge treated water into unnamed tributary of Scott's Run from a Surface Mine Operation located in Jefferson Township, Washington County. This application for a Permit is made under the provision of the Act of June 22, 1937, P. L. 1987, as amended.

M-16, 23, 30, J-6

**Surface Mine Operation located in Jefferson Township
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 6, 1979 Edition**

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Inspect Joffre Mine

To supplement several recent safety improvements at the Standard Coal Company's Sasso No. 5 strip mine at Joffre, Washington County, Pa., a Federal coal mine inspector proposes further precautionary measures in a report released today by the Bureau of Miners. At the time of the re-inspection in June by J. W. Holcomb, the strip operation employed 56 men in the daily production of 1,500 tons of coal.

Since the last inspection, an explosives-delivery truck was purchased, but the exposed metal on the inside of the vehicle should be covered or protected with wood or other nonmetallic material, the inspector stated. Seven jumper drills and other mining equipment were removed from the truck, which was also used for storing explosives.

As further safety aids, Inspector Holcomb recommended safe installation of the electric-light wires on the outside of the tibble, efficient warning devices at the shovels, adequate first-aid materials at the tibble and in the pits, and the wearing of protective hats, footwear, and goggles by all employees needing them.

Recent improvements included the daily removal of coal dust accumulations from the tibble, sloping of the 5c pit high-wall bank in such a manner as to minimize any sliding hazards, short-circuiting and staggering of blasting cables, and satisfactory frame-grounding of the conduit, switch boxes, and motor in the tibble. Two drillers in the pit used protective hats, and tibble employees wore safety footwear, the inspector also reported.

Inspect Joffre Mine

Burgettstown Enterprise-August 5, 1948 Edition

**MINE WORKER KILLED
IN AVELLA ACCIDENT**

John Andriano, 40, of Penowa, was almost instantly killed Friday afternoon at 3:45 o'clock, when a mine car jumped the tracks in the Penobscot mine of the Avella Coal Company and pinned him against a rib in the mine. The man suffered a crushed chest and one of his lungs was punctured by a broken rib.

Mr. Andriano leaves his wife, Sarah, and five children. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in the St. Michael Roman Catholic Church, with interment in the cemetery adjoining.

Stripper Ordered To Fill Holes Under 22

A case of interest to Hanover township residents was heard in Washington County Court Monday, April 23, By Judge Weiner. It was a request by the Pennsylvania State Highway Department to continue an injunction against Joseph Maglich, stripper who is charged with creating a dangerous condition and traffic hazard on Route 22 at Windy Hill.

Mr. Maglich has been engaged in a somewhat continuing strip operation at this point for a period of more than 10 years and in recent weeks has been using an auger to secure coal under the state highway.

The case of the Highway department was presented by Attorney Howard Carson before Judge Weiner. Mr. Carson called Clem Sweeney, mining engineer employed in the Uniontown headquarters of the highway. Mr. Sweeney testified on oath that he had personally examined the cuts made by the Maglich Company adjacent to highway 22 on March 22. He found that six holes had been drilled, 42 inches each in diameter, one hundred and eight feet deep and had penetrated 63 feet into the legal right of way under Route 22. It was his opinion that such a process created a dangerous traffic hazard and danger of possible slides which could permanently damage this heavily used public thoroughfare.

He suggested that the only remedy to the situation would be to backfill all six holes for a distance of 108 feet. Since Mr. Sweeney's examination, it was brought out the stripper has continued to auger coal and has drilled at least 30 or 40 more holes parallel to the highway, from which he has been daily removing the coal, despite the existing injunction.

The judge ordered that the coal company backfill the original holes a distance of 108 feet under the highway, and with the direct supervision of state highway department engineers.

**Joseph Maglich, Stripper Ordered to Fill Holes Under 22
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 3, 1962 Edition**

LARGE COAL TRACT IN AVELLA SECTION SOLD

L. M. Irwin Purchases Upwards
of 1,000 Acres for Coal Com-
panies Paying on an Average
of \$200 an Acre.

Independence, Jan. 15.--A block of upwards of 1,000 acres of coal was sold here this week to L. M. Irwin, cashier of the Avella Lincoln National bank, who is representing some of the coal companies of the Avella section. The price paid for the coal was \$200 per acre with one exception. The farms included in the deal at \$200 per acre are: W. W. Thompson, 163 acres; Henry Carl, 122 acres; D. B. Narrigan, 151 acres; Mrs. Jennie Wilson, 130 acres, and William McConnell, 121 acres. All of this coal adjoins lands owned and operated by the Meadowlands Coal company, formerly known as the P. & W. mines.

D. A. Scott, of West Middletown, who owns 198 acres in the Mt. Hope section, and, a considerable distance south of the block just sold, has sold his farm coal and surface to L. M. Irwin for \$125 per acre. Just a few weeks ago the coal under the John A. and James W. Boles farms containing 115 acres, and adjoining the McConnell farm, sold for \$150 per acre. The McMurray coal sold for \$200.

The coal in this section is being gathered in by the coal operators, and offers are being made for the balance that is not under option here.

The P. & W. mines are preparing to sink a shaft on the James Murdock farm for the purpose of taking water from their holdings.

**L.M. Irwin Purchases Upwards of 1,000 Acres for Coal Company
Unknown Newspaper-January 15, 1920 Edition**

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Another Deal in Independence

Independence, March 26—Another transaction in Independence township coal lands has been completed. In this deal the Waverly Coal company, which operates a mine at Avella and owns a large tract in this district, purchased that portion of the Cornelius Beall heirs tract owned by Mrs. Clara Frizzell, of Wheeling, and Mrs. Mary Johnson, of Baltimore, Md., amounting to 400 acres or more. While the purchase price was not made public it is reported to have been between \$150 and \$200 an acre. These tracts adjoin acreage already held by the Waverly company.

It has been learned that the Letitia Liggett coal land was not purchased by the Waverly company. It is presumed that this tract, which contained more than 400 acres, was bought by the Cleveland men who took over the Meadowlands Coal company properties.

The Waverly company has also purchased a tract of five acres just across the line in Brooke county, West Virginia, known as the Franklin parsonage plot.

The Cornelius Beall block contained more than 1,000 acres until Mrs. Frizzell and Mrs. Johnson disposed of their interest. Mrs. Frizzell owned what was known as the Knob farm, while that of Mrs. Johnson adjoins this place. A country bank was formerly operated on the farm owned by Mrs. Frizzell but was closed recently.

SALE OF LANGELOTH COAL COMPANY TO G. C. & C. CO. IS ANNOUNCED. FUTURE WORK POLICY WILL DEPEND ON NEW MINE CONTRACT. MINE EMPLOYED 175 MEN

Announcement was made today of the sale of the Lange and Coke Co. Charles B. Baton, president of the G. C. & C. loth Coal Company mine to Greensburg, Connellsville Coal Co. stadd that transfer to the new ownership will be made officially on July 8. Mr. Baton stated no decision as to future work policy at the mine has been made. The sale includes all coal rights to 1400 acres of deep fuel coal in Smith, Jefferson and Cross Creek Township.

This mine has been operated since 1913 by the Lange- loth Coal company, and in addition to serving as chief supplier of fuel coal to the American Zinc and Chemical Company, also sold coal to the Pennsylvania railroad and fuel coal to Pittsburgh industries. Tonnage was rated at 750 tons a day and prior to the present "vacation" period now in force, employed 175 men.

This mine, along with other

mines in the district is idle for the vacation period prior to the expiration of the U.M.W. of A. wage agreement. Future operation of the mine will probably be determined after a new miner's contract has been made.

Sale of Langeloth Coal Company to G. C. & C. Co. is Announced. Future Work Policy will Depend on New Mine Contract. Mine Employed 175 Men. Burgettstown Enterprise-July 3, 1947 Edition

LANGELOTH MINE IS BEING DISMANTLED EQUIPMENT WILL BE SOLD AT MINE SITE

F. A. Stoughton of Pittsburgh, under contract to Greensburg, Connellsville Coal and Coke Co. began this week the dismantling and sale of all physical effects of the Langeloth Coal Co. This mine, until recently employing 175 men was sold by the American Zinc and Chemical Co. to Greensburg several months ago.

Since the sale, the mine has been closed and it is understood that the remaining deep coal will be mined from a Greensburg, Connellsville Coal and Coke entrance adjacent to the present workings of the Langeloth mine.

Mr. Stoughton estimates that it will take six months to completely dismantle and sell all equipment and buildings. The sale is being conducted to individuals at the mine site.

dismantling process and representing the G. C. & C. Co. are former mine superintendent Mr. Trevarro and J. H. McIntyre.

Assisting Mr. Stoughton in the The Victory Bible class met Tuesday evening in the parlors of the Westminster Church. Eighteen members were present.

Arrangements were made to have a return engagement of the Weirton Steel Chorus in Burgettstown, October 9. Tickets are now on sale.

Devotions were led by Mrs. Hamill. Hostesses were Mrs. Helen Williamson and Leila Pack.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Pollon of St. Petersburg Fla. are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Clair of Florence avenue and with other relatives here.

**Langeloth Mine is Being Dismantled
Equipment Will Be Sold at Mine Site
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 11, 1947 Edition**

LOCAL INDUSTRY HELP PLANNED BY MAYORS

Municipal Officials in Tri-State Area
Consider Means to Help Out
in Revival of Business

On Wednesday evening of last week Burgess Robert C. Cassidy, Dr. W. S. Clark, Richard S. Clark and Smith, Township Tax Collector R. M. Boyd, all of Burgettstown, were the guests of Mayor T. Y. Beckett of Wheeling at a dinner held at the Fort Henry Club at Wheeling. Mayors of about 40 cities and municipalities were in attendance.

The gathering was in the nature of a conference from which it was hoped plans might evolve for the increase and stabilization of coal production in the neighboring area. The meeting was the first of a series which are expected to be held from time to time in the near future in other cities. It is the object of the sponsors of the conferences to place the coal industry upon a more solid foundation. Prominent bankers composed a committee in charge of the movement.

The following resolution was passed: "No consumer of coal, large or small, with a social conscience desires to pay a price that means starvation to miners and bankruptcy to operators. The price of the product should be such that the miner gets a fair wage and the operator of the mines a fair profit at all times." The resolution carried also an admonition concerning the observance of law and order.

Briefly the mayors of the tri-state area submit: Governmental control not advocated; state guidance for legal reasons is necessitated. To have a tribunal, impartial and free of politics, appointed by the governors of the states, this tribunal to form the operators into a unit; to ascertain potential production and consumption by state, by district, by operation, by year, by month and by day. Cooperation by labor and capital, so that employees get a living wage and employers a fair profit.

**Local Industry Help Planned by Mayors
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 27, 1931**

MANY ARRESTS MADE IN LOCAL TERRITORY

Striking Miners Held for Court by
Burgettstown Justice on
Rioting Charges

Twenty-two miners of the western section of Washington county were arrested Thursday of last week by Constable Mike Robb, on warrants which had been issued following the disturbance at the Bulger Block mine Wednesday afternoon as the night shift entered the workings.

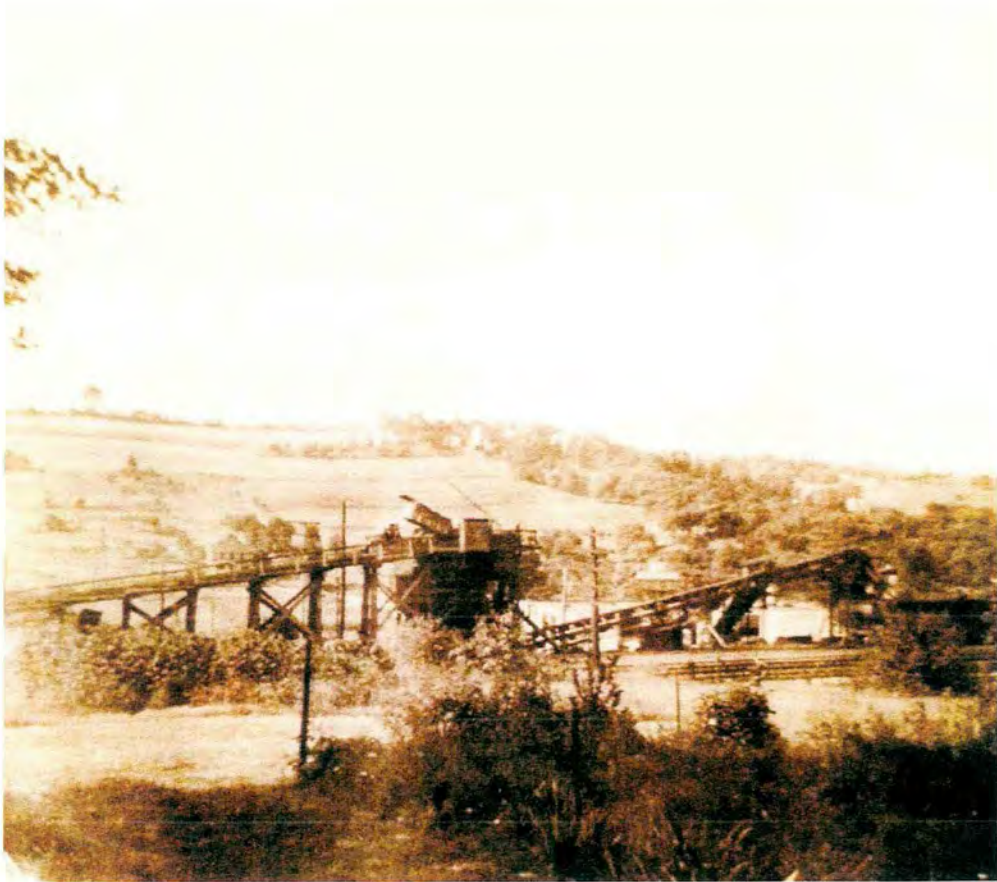
They were given a hearing before Justice of the Peace W. B. Culley at Burgettstown Thursday evening and on informations signed by J. K. Robb, treasurer of the Bulger Block Coal Company, were held for court on charges of inciting to riot and assault and battery. Bail in the riot charges was set at \$1,000 and on the assault and battery charge at \$300.

The warrants were issued on identifications which followed disorder at the Bulger Block mine in which several of the workers were painfully injured. The strikers are understood to have gathered near the miners as they entered.

Those arrested, who represent mining camps throughout the western section of the county, are: George Pasco, John Kaskie, Leon Schoy, Misko Gischin, John Dennio, Anton Zilich, Bill Diebl, Dominke, Diliapina, Leo Diliapina, Sam Betti, William Morris, Adam Slaskivich, Harry Bordin, Thomas Hart, Sam Murcina John White, Chick Brun, Paul Fischer, Frank Karris and Albert Brun, alias John Brun.

Mass Meeting Held.

A mass meeting of the National Miners Union was held in South Burgettstown Monday afternoon, with about 300 present. The object of the meeting was to explain conditions which are believed to presage another war. Speakers represented the Laborers International Relief, the National Miners, the Communist Party and the Young Communists League.



**Views of Midway Tipple
Unknown Year**

Fort Vance Historical Society

**MINE WORKERS AGREE
ON NEW WAGE SCALE**

**Owners and Workmen in Agreement
on Wages and Conditions in
Local Mining Area**

Following negotiations extending over a long period and a "peaceful" strike of about a week's duration, coal operators and employees late last week reached agreements affecting the mining situation in Western Pennsylvania and adjacent territory and full resumption of activities in coal production came throughout the district on Tuesday.

It is estimated that the operators conceded pay increases amounting to about \$90,000,000 throughout the entire coal producing territory of the country. Substantially, the following rates of pay and the conditions of labor will obtain under new agreements which are made effective until April, 1936:

1—An increase of 50 cents per day for day workers.

2—An increase of 9 cents per ton for piece-workers, the men who dig and load the coal.

3—An increase of 10 per cent in the pay of those doing so-called "deadwork."

Rearrangements of the differentials between competing districts, which were designed to put the operators on an improved status in marketing operations.

Following are the basic tonnage rates established in Western Pennsylvania and nearby districts for the mining of 2,008 pound of mine-run coal:

Pick mining, thin vein—89 cents.

Pick mining, thick vein—84 cents.

Machine loading, thick vein—64 cents.

Cutting shortwall machine, thin vein—10 cents.

Cutting shortwall machine, thick vein—9 cents.

The following hourly and day wage rates must be paid in all mines in the Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Northern Panhandle of West Virginia, and the Northern West Virginia districts for the occupations following:

Motormen, rock driller, \$3.09-\$5.66.

Drivers, brakemen, spraggers, snapper, coal drillers, trackmen, wiremen, bonders, timbermen, bottom cagers, \$.786-\$5.50.

Pumpers, trackmen, helpers, wiremen helpers, timbermen helpers and other inside labor not classified, .751-\$5.26; greasers, trappers, flaggers, switch throwers, .557-\$3.90.

Bit sharpener, car dropper, trimmer, car repairmen, dumpers, \$.667-\$4.74.

Sand dryers, car cleaners, other able bodied labor, \$.643-\$4.50.

Slate pickers, \$.557-\$3.90.

**Mine Workers Agree on New Wage Scale
Burgettstown Enterprise—October 2, 1935 Edition**

MINERS MAY ASK WAGE INCREASE

WASHINGTON—The soft coal industry, with production up 14 per cent above a year ago, may hear demands for higher wages and shorter hours when it meets with representatives of the United Mine Workers Union in New York next month to consider a new working agreement.

The present contract negotiated in 1939 after a six weeks shut-down of mine operations, provides for a seven-hour day and a 35-hour week with a \$6 a day basic wage in the north and \$5.60 in the south.

What John L. Lewis, Mine Workers president, will ask will not be officially announced until after the UMW policy committee meets in New York March 10, the day before the scheduled opening of joint negotiations.

But the union has long agitated for the six-hour day and the 30-hour week its spokesmen contending the shortened hours would spread out available employment among miners displaced from their jobs by mechanization.

Along with the short hour request, advance signs indicate the union will seek to boost the basic daily wage rate. How much of a boost will be asked has not been officially mentioned, but some of the miners have guessed at a \$1 a doay.

The present contract expires at midnight March 31, and if a new agreement is not completed by that time, the union probably will ask that operations continue under the old terms with any changes in wages, hours and working conditions made retroactive to April 1.

MINERS REPORTED READY TO GO BACK

Move to Return to Three-Day
Operation, as Lewis Asked,
Is Ascribed to Need

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 21—A growing back-to-work move on the part of this region's 56,000 soft-coal miners was indicated here today as officials of the United Mine Workers, backed by the grim facts of financial need, combined to persuade the diggers to return to the pits Monday, as "suggested" by John L. Lewis, president of the UMW.

Although the miners adjacent to the Pittsburgh area were stirring with resentment over the three-day week strategy of Mr. Lewis, it was assumed generally on the part of observers that they would obey their leader.

This optimism concerning the return to work included the frequently intransigent miners of District 4, in Fayette and Greene Counties. The district is devoted chiefly to the mining of coal in "captive" pits for large companies, such as United States Steel, Weirton Steel and others.

District 4 has about 22,000 members of the UMW, a membership generally in the forefront in strikes and other expressions of discontent.

Bitterness Wearing Thin

It was District 4's stand last Monday that delayed the return of miners in other regions. The district voted unanimously to stay away from the pits at that time and had pickets ready to patrol at any mine at which men had returned to work.

District 4's "rebellion" was so firm that miners in District 5 (surrounding Pittsburgh) decided to stay away from the pits, despite votes by many locals in the district to resume work last Monday.

Both union and operator spokesmen last Sunday predicted a return to work in District 5 of better than 50 per cent. When Monday dawned the miners returned to work only in dribbles, leaving the district with an operation that was practically negligible and which turned into a complete shutdown before the day was over.

The cry of "No contract, no work!" a slogan that had rallied the miners through many crises, was raised, this time against the

union as well as the management.

Nowhere was the slogan used with more bitterness than in District 4. Today that bitterness appears to have worn down enough for union officials to prevail upon the men to return to work, even on the three-day basis established by Mr. Lewis.

John P. Busarello, president of District 5, said today he was "completely confident" that most of the 27,000 men in his district would return to work on Monday. Mr. Busarello expressed the same confidence last Sunday, only to admit to disappointment on Monday when his men stayed away.

This time, however, there appears some substance behind Mr. Busarello's optimism.

In District 4, for instance, about 200 local leaders met today with President William J. Hynes in Uniontown. After an orderly meeting the delegates voted unanimously to recommend to their locals a return to work on the basis of the Lewis "suggestion." One local leader commented:

"The return to work by the miners will be governed more by the demands of their stomachs than by any order of President Lewis."

The Uniontown meeting was in sharp contrast to a meeting held at Brownsville on Thursday when Mr. Hynes was jeered by some 3,000 miners when he told them that Mr. Lewis wanted them to return to work.

A blast of dynamite today destroyed a \$65,000 power shovel belonging to the Huberta mine, a strip operation, which has not yet been put into production, near Burgettstown, in Washington County.

Miners Reported Ready to Go Back
New York Times-January 22, 1950 Edition

Local Miners Stop Work As U. M. W. Strike Spreads in Penna.

Langeloth Coal Co., and Greensburg, Connellsville Coal and Coke Company miners failed to report for the morning shift, Wednesday, as the strike of members of the United Mine Workers spread throughout this district. Dean Saxton, Superintendent of the Harmon Creek Coal Co., a U. M. W. affiliate stated that his men reported for work Wednesday morning and had expressed a willingness to continue. The three major mines in the Burgettstown district employ a total of 600 men and work three shifts on a 24 hour schedule.

There have been no meetings of the Unions in this district, so far, and it is understood that the men came to work, both at Langeloth and Francis Mine stood around for an hour and then returned home. The Local mines are engaged in producing coal for war contract jobs. Dennis Harshall, field representative was out of town Wednesday and Pat McGraw, district Union leader has been ill for several weeks in Mercy hospital.

MINES PLANT TREES ON SCARRED LANDS

Pennsylvania Coal Companies
Have Used Yearly 1,250,000
Seedlings and Transplants

By WILLIAM G. WEART

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 9—More than 100,000,000 trees have been planted in Pennsylvania in the last ten years through the efforts of the State Department of Forests and Waters, which, before the war, supplied in excess of 15,000,000 seedlings and transplants annually to noncommercial applicants.

The latter include anthracite and especially bituminous coal companies which use them, together with thousands of trees obtained from their own or other private nurseries, to reforest lands devastated by strip or surface mining.

The demand for seedlings and transplants, which are sold by the State for \$2 and \$5 a thousand, respectively, has soared since the war, according to James A. Kell, secretary of the department. This year's supply has been exhausted and applications are now being accepted for forest trees to be planted in the spring of 1947.

Under a law passed in May by the Legislature, bituminous coal operators must plant trees, shrubs or grasses on lands made barren by open-pit mining. Such planting must be done within one year after the strip mining has been ended and in accordance with a plan of procedure prescribed by the Secretary of Forests and Waters.

Statute Under Court Attack

Although this statute had the active support of many large coal operators, it is now under attack in the Dauphin County Court. Opponents contend it is unconstitutional because it does not include anthracite pit operations, and therefore is discriminatory.

Regardless of the outcome of the test case, Pennsylvania coal companies will plant more than 300,000 trees this spring, according to R. E. Chamberlin, assistant chief of the Division of Forest Management.

"During the eight years prior to 1930, when the depression interfered with their reforestation programs, mining companies had received an average of 1,250,000 seedlings and transplants from the State each year," Mr. Chamberlin said. "The average fell to less than 100,000 during the war years, chiefly because the operators had to concentrate on mining coal for the war effort."

J. C. Middour, principal silviculturist for the State Department, stated that many coal companies had undertaken rehabilitation of despoiled land for practical reasons as well as aesthetic ones. Replanting of denuded areas, he explained, meant a potential supply of locust and oak mine props, both of which are used for that purpose and both of which, it is said, will grow in the reclaimed sections.

Large Companies Interested

The Pittsburgh Consolidated Coal Company, one of the largest in Western Pennsylvania, has a consulting forester on the payroll. It planted 64,000 red, white and pitch pine and Norway spruce in 1944 and another 45,000 in 1945. Other large soft-coal operators interested in reforestation, Mr. Middour said, were the Harmon Creek Coal Company, near Burgettstown; the Sunnyhill Coal Company, Pittsburgh; the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company, Indiana; the Berwind-White Coal Company, Windber, and the Clarion Coal Mining Company, Clarion.

In the hard coal fields, the Lehigh Navigation Coal Company has been a pioneer in forest production on lands which preclude natural reproduction. It has had a forester in its employ since 1913 and its present forester, A. C. Neumuller, has experimented extensively with plantings of pitch pine and white pine on old banks in the Panther Creek Valley.

Among anthracite operators who have been reforesting barren lands are the Lehigh Valley Coal Company and the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company, both at Wilkes-Barre; the Susquehanna Collieries Company, Glen Lyon, and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal & Iron Company, Pottsville.

The Department of Forests and

Waters has made numerous recommendations for overburden planting and has found that each overturned area requires individual planning. It also has discovered that trees planted on overburden banks are growing "decidedly better" than those planted on near-by cleared and undisturbed lands.

Trees up 20 Feet in 20 Years

A plantation of 4,000 pitch pine and 4,000 shortleaf pine trees grew to an average height of twenty feet in Washington County between 1924 and 1944, while 1,000 Japanese larch, planted at the same time reached an average height of thirty feet.

In 1930, the State planted overburden banks resulting from strip mining in Jefferson County with Japanese larch, Scotch pine, black locust, Norway spruce, and red, white and pitch pine. When last examined in 1944, there was a survival of 70 per cent.

The State's four large nurseries in Clearfield, Huntingdon, Franklin and Centre Counties produced 15,000,000 seedlings and transplants annually before the war. During the latter period production dropped to 5,000,000, chiefly due to lack of demand and shortage of labor.

Between 1899, when 1,000 trees were distributed, and January, 1945, the State Department of Forests and Waters distributed 270,000,000 seedlings and transplants as follows: to individuals, 113,527,880; to mining companies, 15,736,046; to water and power companies, 16,297,997; to other industrial organizations, 9,797,835; to schools and colleges, 2,555,337; to municipalities and counties, 11,255,279; to churches, homes and private hospitals, 1,379,157; to associations and clubs, 7,316,360, and to others, such as the State's Game Commission, 91,279,157.

Coal Mines Plant Trees on Scarred Land
New York Times-March 10, 1946 Edition

MORE ARRESTS MADE IN LOCAL STRIKE ZONE

Local Men Included in Number in
Trouble With the Law Over
Alleged Rioting

Seven more arrests were made in Washington county during the weekend, as a result of the mine strike difficulty. Two were made for alleged participation in the Canonsburg rioting, two in the Slovan district for hearing on charges of having taken part in the stoning of workers returning from the Atlasburg mine, and two at the Soudan mine for disorderly conduct. The seventh at Meadowlands, was taken into custody when he is alleged to have interfered with the serving of a warrant during a striker's meeting at Meadowlands.

Ten are now held for alleged active leadership in the Canonsburg rioting. The last two, arrested Saturday, are Thomas Boich, 42, Serbian, of Henderson, and Louis Fazzio, 50 Italian, of Hills Station. They were held in default of bail of \$2,500 each.

Joe Zinish, 55, Polish, and George Boller, 49, Greek, both of Slovan, were arrested for taking part in the alleged stoning at Atlasburg. They were charged with assault and battery in information preferred before Alderman Morgan McClelland and were held in default of bail of \$2,500 each for hearings.

Bollar was arrested for disorderly conduct and carrying concealed weapons during the trouble at Westland some weeks ago.

Mike Onisko 35, Russian, and George Petrisky, 45, Slavish, both of VanVoorhis, were placed in the county jail Sunday evening for a hearing before Alderman McClelland. The two are alleged to have caused a disturbance at the Soudan mine of the Valley Camp Coal Company.

**More Arrests Made in Local Strike Zone
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 30, 1931 Edition**

Mullett Coal Co. Fined \$1000 In Court

The Mullett Coal Company was fined \$1,000 in Washington County Court Wednesday on a plea of guilty to violating the Pure Stream Act.

Irvin Miller, vice president of the firm, was fined \$200 and J. V. McBride, former superintendent, was fined \$100.

The company was also ordered to make restitution of \$1,500 to the State Fish Commission for the in Aunt Clara's Fork of King's Creek, Hanover Township, last July.

The state complained the company and officials let a quantity of impure water from mining operations flow into the Fork.

The case, the first of a violation of the Pure Stream Act of 1937 in this county and at least one of the first in the Commonwealth, was tried before Judge George T. Cummins. The prosecution was made by the Commissioners of Fisheries by the Attorney General of Pennsylvania and the indictments were presented by the office of District Attorney Frank J. Docktor, which assisted in the prosecution.

According to the contention of the Commonwealth a large quantity of surface water had collected in the pit formed at a strip mine, and it was stated that this large body of water was suddenly drained into Aunt Clara's Fork. It was polluted and killed a great number of fish that had been stocked in the stream, consisting of trout, mullet and rock bass.

In addition to this, it was stated that persons living along the stream used the water for domestic purposes, and that it was polluted, for the time being at least, so that they could not use it.

Representing the Attorney General, Attorney John H. Davidson placed the case before the Court. He explained to the court just what had happened, and exhibited photographs taken on the ground, one of which showed a deep cut made into the pit in question to release this water. He stated a sludge of water four feet high and 15 feet wide suddenly rushed down the headwaters of Aunt Clara's Fork. He stated further that unless the pure streams are preserved there will no longer be any in the States.

He explained that King's Creek and its tributaries have been used as stocking streams by the State Fish Commission. Parties living along this fork told him that they had seen fish actually trying to get out onto the bank to escape the mine water that was killing them. The water was very badly discolored. He gave a list of persons who owned land along the

stream and used the water for domestic purposes, and he said that it was ruined for that purpose at least temporarily.

Fish Warden Harry King, who has been very active in gathering evidence, exhibited trout and other fish that he had found killed by the water. He had gathered these fish and had kept them frozen. They showed the discoloration caused by the water.

Davidson said that the Mullett Coal Company had not applied for a permit for this mining operation at the required time. After it opened the coal and caused the damage then it got busy, he said.

He said that the act provides for a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$5,000 and imprisonment, and he urged the maximum fine. He said that the coal company had made an offer of \$1,500 to the Fish Commission to reimburse it for restocking this stream. He said further that this is a big corporation that has violated the pure stream law.

"This is a poor man's recreation area," Davidson said, and he strongly urged the Court to support the policy of the Legislation in the pure stream law and fix the maximum fine. He declared that this act had been committed deliberately, and the water was released, not a small amount, at a time, but in one great sludge. He declared that unless the Court puts a stop to this then this will go on all the time and the stream will be gone. He asked the Court to support the people and sportsmen of the County and State Legislature in the fight for pure streams.

Attorney William Yard, appearing for the defendants, told the Court that this corporation did not commit this act with the deliberate intention of killing the fish.

At this point Judge Cummins told both sides that they must follow the facts in the case, and he said that we are all interested in pure streams in Washington County.

"I don't fish, but the law must be adhered to," he said further.

He then said that he did not want any dickering back and forth between the Attorney General's office and the defendants, and he said positively that he wanted to know the facts.

Yard told the Court that he went to Harrisburg and talked to the Attorney General's office.

He explained that the Commonwealth had agreed to a nol pros in the case against three defendants who had worked for the coal company, and to make restitution of the fair value of the fish killed, and that it then be left to the Court to determine what sentence should be imposed on the corporation and the other men who were entering pleas of guilty. He claimed that the stream was not permanently damaged.

Yard also made a strong plea for leniency. He stated that the two defendants, Miller, vice president of the Mullett Coal Company and McBride, who was superintendent of the work at the time this was committed, were not common criminals. They had simply gone ahead and done what had always been done, and he begged for extreme leniency.

Davidson then read the dates when certain mining operations were started and the dates on which reports were filed, which were later. "They were just too busy making money for Dan Mullet and the Mullett Coal Company to take care of the business of the Commonwealth," he declared. He also said that this company has assets of \$750,000 in that section and that it is taking out the natural resources of this County, and that it must do it according to law.

The Court at this point said that he knew that as soon as a corporation is indicted for a violation of the law then the political machinery starts to roll. He said that Governor Duff, the sportsmen and the people are interested in this case.

On the first count he ordered Miller to pay one-third of the costs and a fine of \$100 or six months in County Jail. The same sentence was passed on McBride, and he sentenced the Mullett Coal Company to pay one-third of the costs and a fine of \$750 forthwith and to make restitution to the State Fish Commission in the sum of \$750.

On the second count he sentenced Miller to pay one-half of the costs and a fine of \$100 or to serve six months in County Jail. The Mullett Coal Company was sentenced to pay one-half of the costs, a fine of \$250 and to make restitution to the State Fish Commission in the sum of \$750.

This made a total fine of \$200 for Miller, besides the costs, and a total fine of \$1,000 and restitution of \$1,500, besides the costs for the Mullett Coal Company.

After sentence was passed Judge Cummins highly commended the officers in charge of the enforcement of this pure stream law and the officers on the job who enforced the act and worked so hard on this case. This included the local officers of the Fish Commission.

Mullett Coal Company Fined \$1,000 in Court
Burgettstown Enterprise-May 13, 1948 Edition

**NEW COAL LAW IS
EFFECTIVE TODAY**

HARRISBURG, January 1—Pennsylvania's shortweight coal law becomes fully effective January 1, with expiration of a six-months extension to obtain official weighmaster certificates, Internal Affairs Secretary, William S. Livengood, reminded today.

The law, backed by both Republican and Democratic legislators, was designed to give consumers "2,000 pounds of coal in every ton," and is operating satisfactorily, Livengood said.

The act was signed last June 24 and became effective September 1, 1941. Livengood granted a six-months extension for procurement of weighmaster certificates in view of the "short period of time to obtain them."

New Coal Law is Effective Today
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 1, 1942 Edition

New Industry for Avella Is Project of Near Future

Coal Washing Plant to Cost \$350,000—Will Add to Welfare of Town

According to reports of the early part of the week, an industrial project that will spell greater prosperity for the Burgettstown district is now under contemplation. The construction of a \$350,000 coal washing plant, with a daily capacity of 10,000 tons, is to be begun in the near future at Avella, jointly by the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation, the F. E. Taplin, interests and the Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railroad Co.

The new plant will be the means of adding approximately \$7,500 a day to the payrolls of the local district, which will benefit in large measure all the business enterprises of Burgettstown. Increased demands for treated coal brings a new value to operations of washeries and even with markets somewhat below normality, this new project undoubtedly will be of the greatest worth in adding to general improvement in this district.

**New Industry for Avella is Project of Near Future
Coal Washing Plant to Cost \$350,000-Will Add to Welfare of Town
Burgettstown Enterprise-February 26, 1931 Edition**

COAL

MINE RUN—NUT—EGG—LUMP

Actually Cleaned and Graded by Modern Equipment
If You Like and Are Looking for Good Clean Coal
Delivered Promptly by Careful and Pleasant Drivers.
Weight Slip Accompanies Each and Every Load

Try Us for Just one Load

OSCAR JACKSON

Burgettstown Phone 289

Coal-Oscar Jackson
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 22, 1936 Edition

Penssy Trailer Truck Argues Right of Way With Loaded Penssy Freight



Rudy Putkovich, 15, Joffre sophomore at U. H. S., and amateur cameraman snapped this picture of a big Penssy trailer truck that lost an argument with a loaded coal freight at the Raccoon crossing last Thursday, January 30. Frank Lowther, driver of the trailer that runs between Pittsburgh and Burgettstown freight houses, said his breaks didn't hold. He crashed into the oncoming Penssy coal freight, but escaped uninjured. The trailer was damaged to the extent of several hundred dollars.

**Penssy Trailer Truck Argues Right of Way with Loaded Truck
Burgettstown Enterprise-February 6, 1947 Edition**

**FOR SALE
MINE RUN COAL**

\$3.50 PER TON

STARTING NOVEMBER 15

8 a. m. to 4 p. m.

PENOWA COAL COMPANY

RACCOON MINE

Raccoon, Penna.

WHitney 7-9139

IF NO ANSWER CALL

WHitney 7-9565

**Penowa Coal-Raccoon Mine
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 16, 1961 Edition**

PENOWA MINE INSPECTED

Safety progress made recently at the State Line Coal Company's Waverly mine is commended in a Federal reinspection report released today by the Bureau of Mines which also proposes fuller conformance with several established safety standards. Near Penowa, the mine employed 60 men and averaged 250 tons of coal daily when it was reexamined in January by Inspector M. J. Hughes, Jr.

Although noting that sufficient air was reaching the working sections and that weekly examinations for explosive gas and other hazards were being made, Inspector Hughes recommended repair of leaky stoppings between the main air courses, construction of an air lock, and offset installation and safety devices for the ventilating fan.

Hughes also stressed the need for thorough rock dusting of specified dry areas to within 80 feet of the faces, clearing of obstructions from one haulage road and secure blocking of standing cars, safer handling of shot-firing cables and exclusive use of permissible blasting units and incombustible stemming.

Among the many recent safety gains cited in the report were recording of the daily fan inspections, preshift examinations for explosive gas and other hazards, carrying of blasting materials in suitable containers, safe underground storage of explosives and detonators, rerailing equipment and a warning device for the locomotive, provision of two permissible flame-safety lamps, several electrical safeguards, ordering of eyeshields, and adoption of a positive employee-identification system.

In addition, Hughes recommended taking down of effective timbering of loose haulageway roof as detected, correction of remaining electrical hazards, adequate fire protection underground, universal wearing of safety-toe shoes, and prohibition of smoking in the mine.

PESCHO'S PUMP GIVES HOT WATER- MINE FIRE PERILS HOME



The above Enterprise photograph taken last Wednesday afternoon shows the home of JOHN PESCHO of Burgettstown Coal, which is in peril because of a spreading underground fire in abandoned workings of the old Burgettstown Coal mine. Shown above in front of the house are: Councilmen George Wagner, Robert Robinson and Clair Martin, who with State Mine Inspector Sam Cortes of Houston, Pa., made an investigation of the fire; also Mrs. Pescho. The investigation developed facts concerning the spreading fire which are of grave concern to Burgettstown Councilmen. Puffs of smoke from the workings have appeared in several places on the Pescho property which is at the edge of Burgettstown Borough and bordering Smith township near Francis Mine. Mrs. Pescho told the committee that hot water comes from her pump adjacent to the house and that recently a pit hole, 20 feet deep caved in near the driveway, within fifty feet of the house. The Peschos have lived in this house for 26 years and desire to stay there. They hope Council and the State Mining Inspector can figure out a way to stop or put out the fire, which is also a hazard to Florence avenue properties, since it is spreading in that direction. Inspector Cortes will report to the state and it is believed that an effort will be made to secure state or federal funds to use in combatting the blaze.

Pescho's Pump Gives Hot Water-Mine Fire Perils Home
The Burgettstown Enterprise-March 23, 1950 Edition

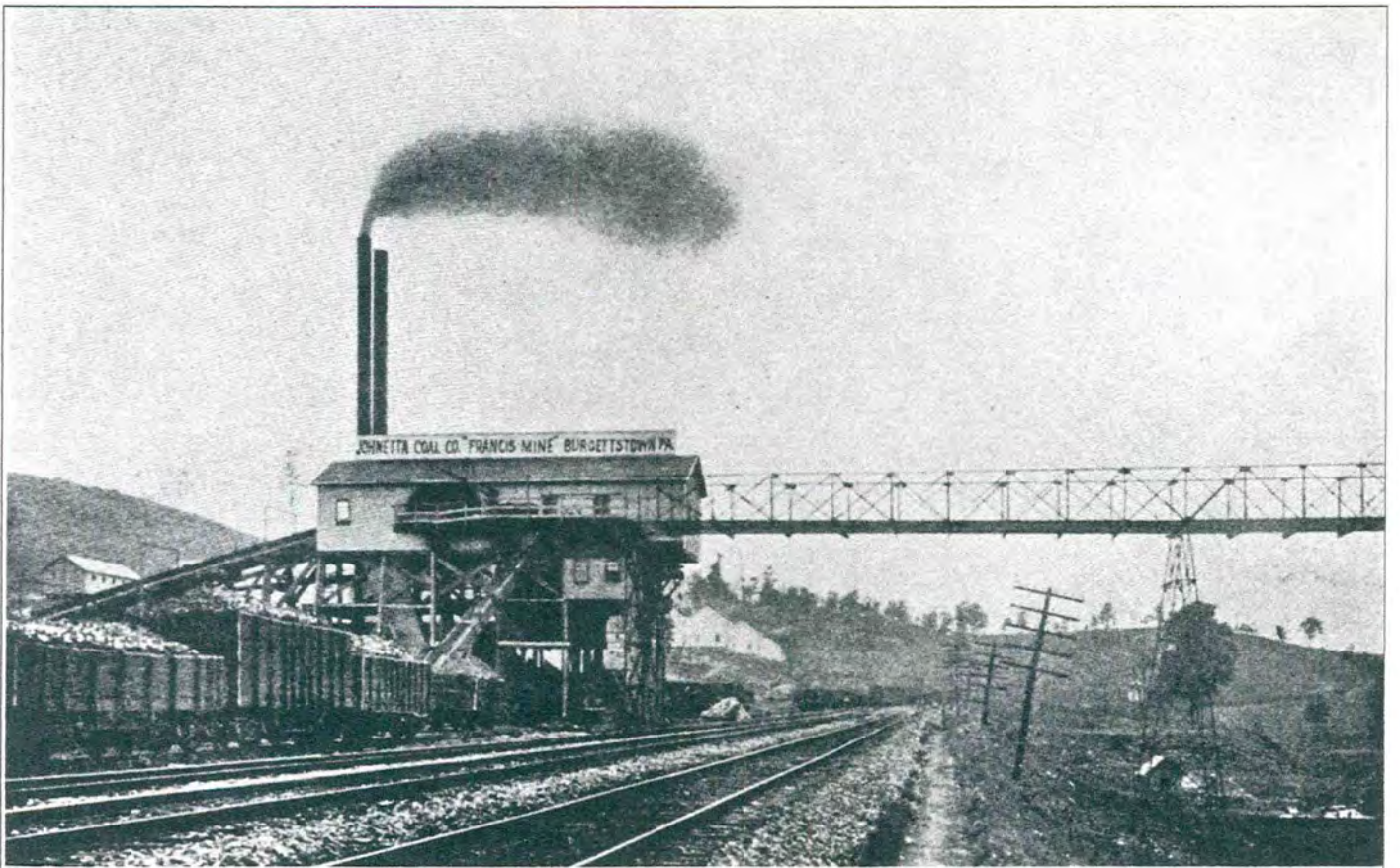
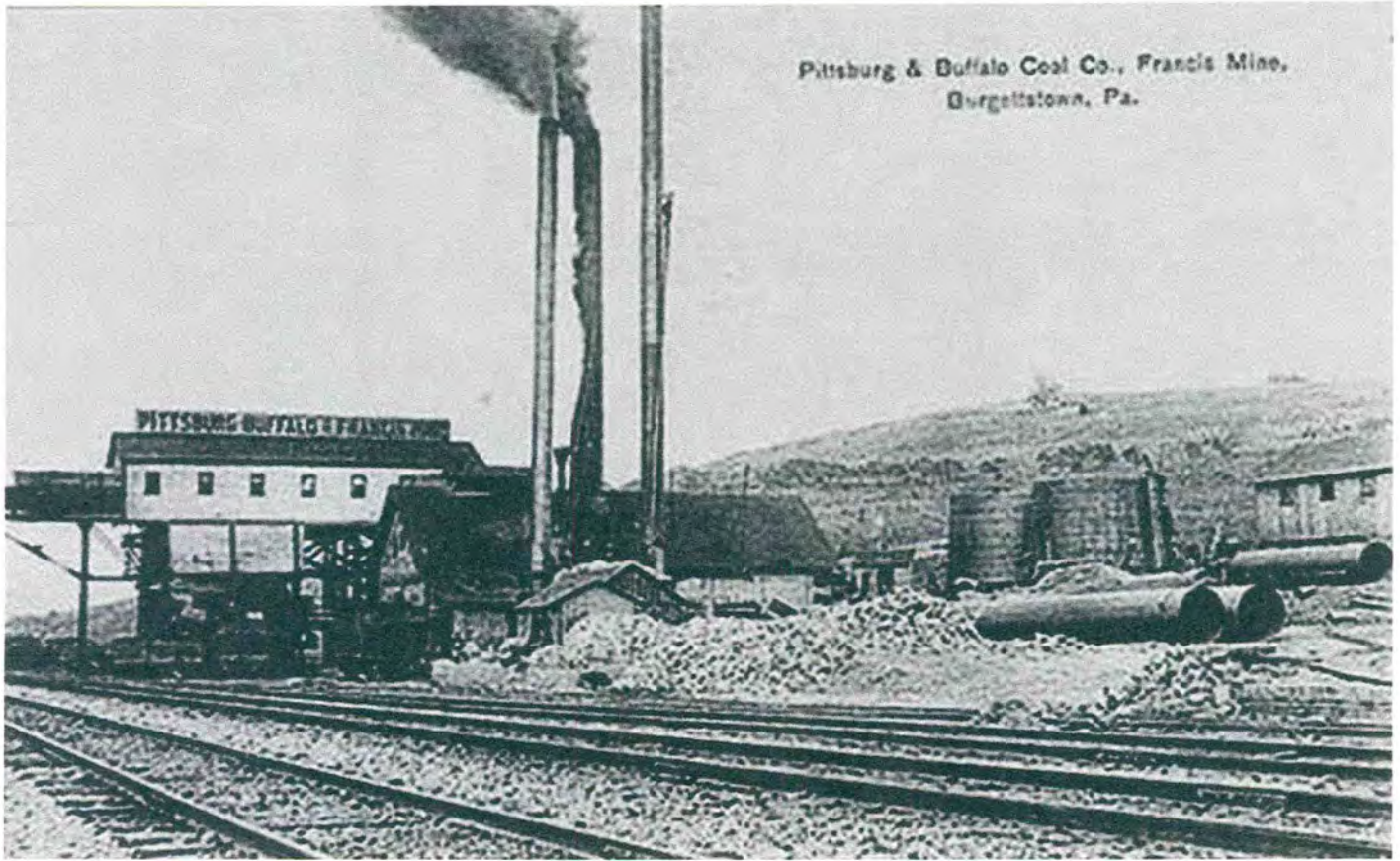


Tippel at the Foot of Bulger Hill.

L-T: Jim, Tom, Rezin Ralston-Engineer, and Kate. Jim Kelly owned the mine. Twelve to fifteen, non-union worked the mine. Often, fired miners would go to work there. Milford Jones, boss's son dumped coal into railroad cars. Rezin Ralston operated the boiler to run the cars up the tippel. No electricity available. Highest wages paid were 83 $\frac{3}{8}$ cents an hour.



Calogro (Charles) Tabone
Bulger, PA

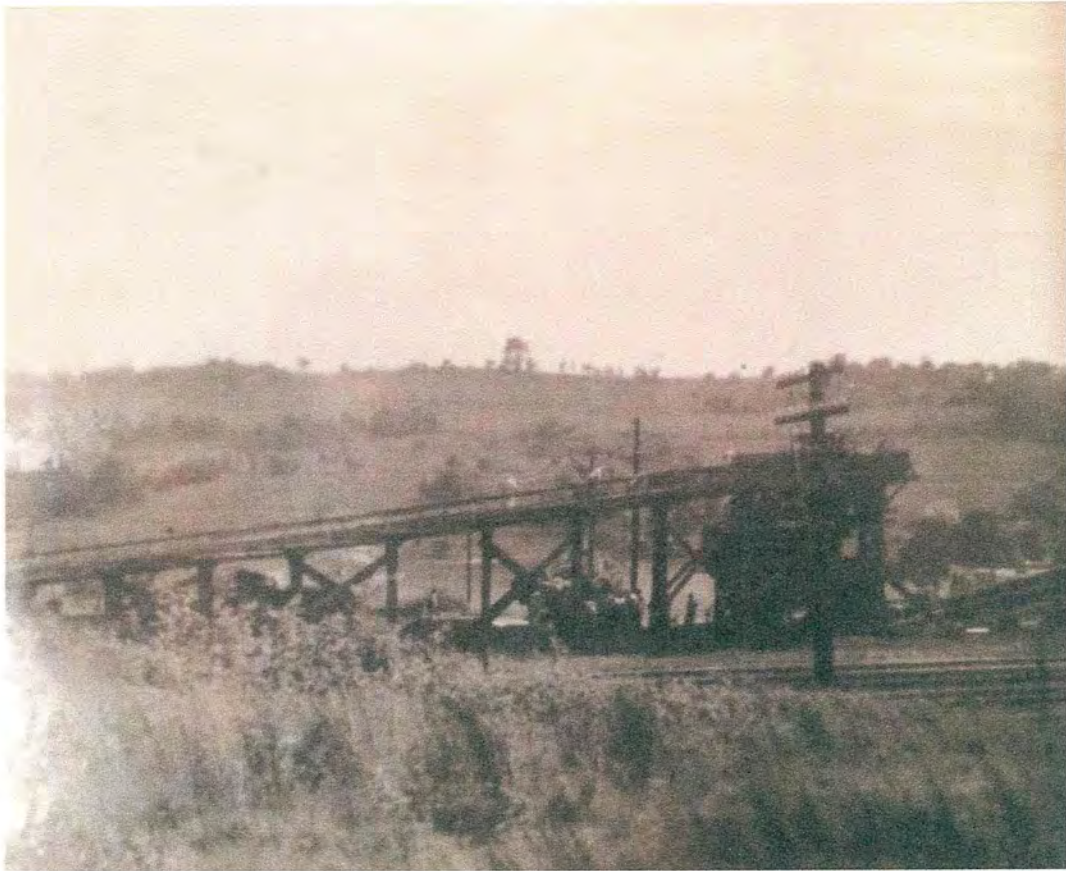


Tipple, Power Plant and Sidings, Francis Mine, Burgettstown, Pa.

Francis Mine-Burgettstown, PA



Francis Mine Company Store-Burgettstown, PA



Views of Midway Tipples-Midway, PA



Verner Coal-Bulger, PA

PICKET LINES FADING IN LOCAL MINE ZONES

Strike Situation Clearing Around
Burgettstown and in the
Neighboring Area

Sheriff J. A. Seaman Tuesday night reported that only one picket line appeared in the western section of the Washington county mine strike area Tuesday morning.

At Avella approximately 100 pickets who grouped in streets of the town prior to marching before the Aurora mine of the Duquesne Coal and Coke Co. were summarily dispersed by the Sheriff, who stated that no more picketing in the Avella district would be permitted.

Sheriff Seaman warned Avella strikers that if they persisted in attempts to picket the Aurora and Cedar Grove mines of their district he would padlock the relief kitchen at Avella, where the marchers have been obtaining doles of food and clothing upon showing slips which they earn by marching in the picket line.

State police, while on their morning patrol of the strike areas on Tuesday arrested Michel Brennan, 30, at Atlasburg, on a drunk and disorderly charge, when they came upon him causing some slight disorder in the Atlasburg mining camp. He spent Tuesday night in the Washington lockup.

No further evidence of trouble from the strikers is apparent in the county, and nearly all mines are operating at normal capacity, with but three workings not yet reopened since start of the strike trouble last May.

Picket Lines Fading in Local Mine Zones
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 27, 1931 Edition

PICK-UP IN COAL INDUSTRY SEEN IN THIS DISTRICT

Reorganization of two major coal companies operating extensively in this section was announced this week in two important statements, coming from officials of the companies concerned. James D. Francis, president of the Island Creek coal company made known that his company has purchased the controlling interest in the Carnegie Coal company, which operates mines at Atlasburg, Cedar Grove and between McDonald and Burgettstown. Rumor was current this week that these mines will be modernized and that production will be considerably stepped up.

The Carnegie Coal company is said to control approximately 35,000,000 tons of unmined coal in Washington county and adjacent West Virginia districts and is capitalized at \$6,000,000. The Island Creek coal company has assets listed at \$20,000,000 and its stock is listed on the New York exchange. J. T. M. Stoneroad will continue as president of the corporation and no immediate change in personnel is anticipated.

The operations of the Carnegie Coal company in Burgettstown territory contributed largely to what was known as the "boom years" hereabouts. Established by the late John A. Bell, when bituminous coal mining was at its height this company, during the World War and for a period thereafter, was one of the largest operating in Washington county. During this period coal shipments from Burgettstown were the largest in the United States as an originating point.

Police Chief Warns.

Chief of Police J. E. Dowden informs the Enterprise that certain residents of Burgettstown who are soliciting food and clothing, which is alleged to be for striking miners, are imposters and that they recently were run out of Holidays Cove by the authorities for begging. The chief states that a number of children are sent through the town on begging expeditions and they are unworthy of any charity. He warns all citizens to avoid making any donations to persons who are not connected with town relief organizations.

POLICE USE TEAR GAS IN ATLASBURG CHARGE

Pickets Routed by State Men After
Stoning Mine Workers Enroute
to Carnegie Mine

State Police officers used tear gas in dispersing picket lines at the Carnegie Coal Co. mine at Atlasburg on Friday morning of last week after marchers had become disorderly when ordered by Sheriff J. A. Seaman to disperse. The sheriff commanded the marchers to break ranks and separate after they had been parading along the roadway in the vicinity of the mine about a half hour.

The strikers started slowly for their homes and were alleged to have used abusive language to miners going to work and were charged with throwing stones and rocks at automobiles carrying miners enroute to work at the Carnegie mine as they passed along the highway. The state troopers immediately took charge of the situation charging tear gas bombs.

In connection with the labor troubles, which still persist to some extent in the local area, Sheriff Seaman discovered another soup kitchen in operation along the roadway at Slovan on Friday, and ordered the establishment closed at once. The sheriff stated he found no fault with the operation of relief stations when located well back from the highway, but will not permit these places to be conducted close to where working miners are compelled to travel.

It is reported that a large group of unemployed men from the Ohio and West Virginia coal mining districts have come into the Slovan territory and spend the greater part of their time idling in the neighborhood of the relief stations and soup kitchens. It is understood that by joining the picket lines they become eligible for food and clothing relief.

In anticipation of further trouble at Atlasburg the sheriff returned on Monday, but no disorder occurred. The State police are making their usual patrol of the territory.

A meeting on the carnival grounds at Avella, with about 200 people in attendance on last Friday night, was addressed by two negro organizers of the National Miner's Union. The speakers delivered fiery speeches in which they bitterly scored the State police. There were no officers present at the meeting and no disorder occurred.

Property Owners On Market Street Storm Council Chamber To Protest Coal Ramp

Only an injunction can stop Mr. Caruso from building a coal ramp near Market street, a delegation from South Burgettstown was told at a special meeting of council Friday evening, May 28.

Given a building permit to construct his coal ramp on the Haines property near the old ice house in South Burgettstown, Mr. Caruso promised to pay the coal processing tax and stated that he would dump only wet coal over the ramp.

Market street property owners, feeling the ramp to be unsightly and anticipating it to be a public nuisance, petitioned council in the hope of halting its construction.

Council was questioned as to why a building permit should have been given Mr. Caruso at all. The explanation was given that a building permit is no more than a registration card automatically issued to any builder in order to collect a dollar revenue. The burgess who issues such a permit need not question the applicant except to determine whether he is acting in accordance with the law. There is no law that such a ramp cannot be built within the borough of Burgettstown.

Solicitor Edward Sciamanna advised the Market street property owners to wait until there was evidence of the ramp being a public nuisance; then to take legal action against its operation. In the meantime council and Mr. Sciamanna told the delegation to try "to talk Mr. Caruso out of" proceeding with construction.

A motion by John Fliton and seconded by Joseph Vajentic assured the property holders that council would cooperate with them if and when the ramp being constructed would become a public nuisance.

**RAID ON MINE FOILED
BY AURORA WATCHMAN**

The second attempt in recent weeks to cripple the Aurora mine of the Duquesne Coal & Coke Co. near Avella was reported last Thursday. Clarence Cain, night watchman at the mine reported he emptied his revolver at a man who fled at his approach when he investigated a noise in the motor shed.

Cain said the tops of the motors had been removed, apparently in an effort to strip the gears. Later another man was seen to flee after hacking with a knife at the belt which connects the coal shakers, Cain said.

Some time ago a fire was discovered in one of the unguarded entries to the workings, which burned 24 hours before being put out.

The mine has been operating for about two weeks with 110 men.

Since Sheriff Seaman issued an edict against picketing, there has been no further trouble at Avella.

REA MINE INSPECTED

Pittsburgh-Elimination of roof-fall hazards along the main haulage road and in the emergency escapeway and a major ventilation change to prevent air from abandoned workings passing over trolley and feeder wires into active workings are recommended for the Rea mine in a coal-mine inspection report released recently by the U. S. Bureau of Mines. The Rea Coal Company operation near Hickory, employed eight persons underground and two on the surface and produced 75 tons of coal a day when examined recently by Federal Inspector Robert T. Davis.

Davis also recommended safer storage of explosives and detonators underground, better maintenance of haulage tracks, several electrical improvements, and a self-rescuer for each person underground.

The inspector acknowledged four worthwhile safety improvements during the inspection and two accomplished between Federal inspections.

REA MINE INSPECTED

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Ventilation changes to prevent air from abandoned areas being used to ventilate live workings are recommended for the Rea mine near Hickory, Pa., in a reinspection report released recently by the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

The 14-man operation of the Rea Coal Company produced 45 tons of coal a day when examined recently by Inspector James A. Bennett.

The inspector also recommended lightning arrestors for the telephone and power circuit, a permissible dust collector for controlling dust resulting from drilling in rock, and a self-rescuer for each person underground.

Rea Mine Inspection
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 29, 1956 Edition

ACCUSED OF SEDITION.

**Rebecca Grecht of New York Held
for Pennsylvania Mine Speeches.**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Pa., March 6.—Miss Rebecca Grecht, aged 26, a New York City milliner, who has been addressing alleged radical meetings throughout the strike zone in the Western Pennsylvania bituminous coal fields, was formally charged with sedition in an information made this afternoon before Justice of the Peace J. A. McKnight of Housston by Sergeant William Jones of the State Police.

She was taken into custody yesterday afternoon while addressing an audience of 800 at Burgettstown, the meeting being disrupted by a squad of fourteen State policemen. She will receive a hearing tomorrow.

Miss Grecht is said to attack constituted authority. The State Police declare that officials of the striking union miners deny that meetings addressed by her have the sanction of their organization.

As Secretary of the Society for the Protection of the Foreign Born, Miss Grecht has been identified with the anti-Fascist movement in New York. At a meeting under Communist auspices in July, 1925, she predicted a revolution that would mean the end of capitalism throughout the world.

**Rebecca Grecht-Accused of Sedition
New York Times-May 7, 1928 Edition**

Baden Man Drowns In Jeep; Route 18

Robert S. McAlpin, Sr., 46, an employee of Mullett Coal Company, died in an accident on Route 18, between Florence and Frankfort, Sunday morning when the jeep which he was driving skidded off the road into a "cut" filled with about 15 feet of water.

Children, living in the neighborhood, saw the jeep sticking up through the water late Sunday morning. The Burgettstown fire department was called to pump out the water, and a bull dozer lifted out the jeep. McAlpin's body was found still inside, but in such a position that it is believed he was trying to make an escape. Death was attributed to drowning. It is believed the accident occurred about 7 a.m., since a watch which McAlpin was wearing stopped at that time. He was on his way to work at Mullett Coal Company.

The body was taken to the Lee and Wilson Funeral Home, but was removed Sunday evening to Herminie, near Irwin. The deceased, who lived at Baden, R. D. 1, is survived by his wife and several children.

**SALE OF LANGELOTH COAL COMPANY TO G. C. & C. CO.
IS ANNOUNCED. FUTURE WORK POLICY WILL DEPEND
ON NEW MINE CONTRACT. MINE EMPLOYED 175 MEN**

Announcement was made today of the sale of the Lange-
and Coke Co. Charles B. Baton, president of the G. C. & C.
loth Coal Company mine to Greensburg, Connellsville Coal
Co. stated that transfer to the new ownership will be made
officially on July 8. Mr. Baton stated no decision as to fu-
ture work policy at the mine has been made. The sale in-
cludes all coal rights to 1400 acres of deep fuel coal in Smith,
Jefferson and Cross Creek Township.

This mine has been operated since 1913 by the Lange-
loth Coal company, and in addition to serving as chief supplier
of fuel coal to the American Zinc
and Chemical Company, also sold
coal to the Pennsylvania railroad
and fuel coal to Pittsburgh indus-
tries. Tonnage was rated at 750
tons a day and prior to the pres-
ent "vacation" period now in
force, employed 175 men.

This mine, along with other

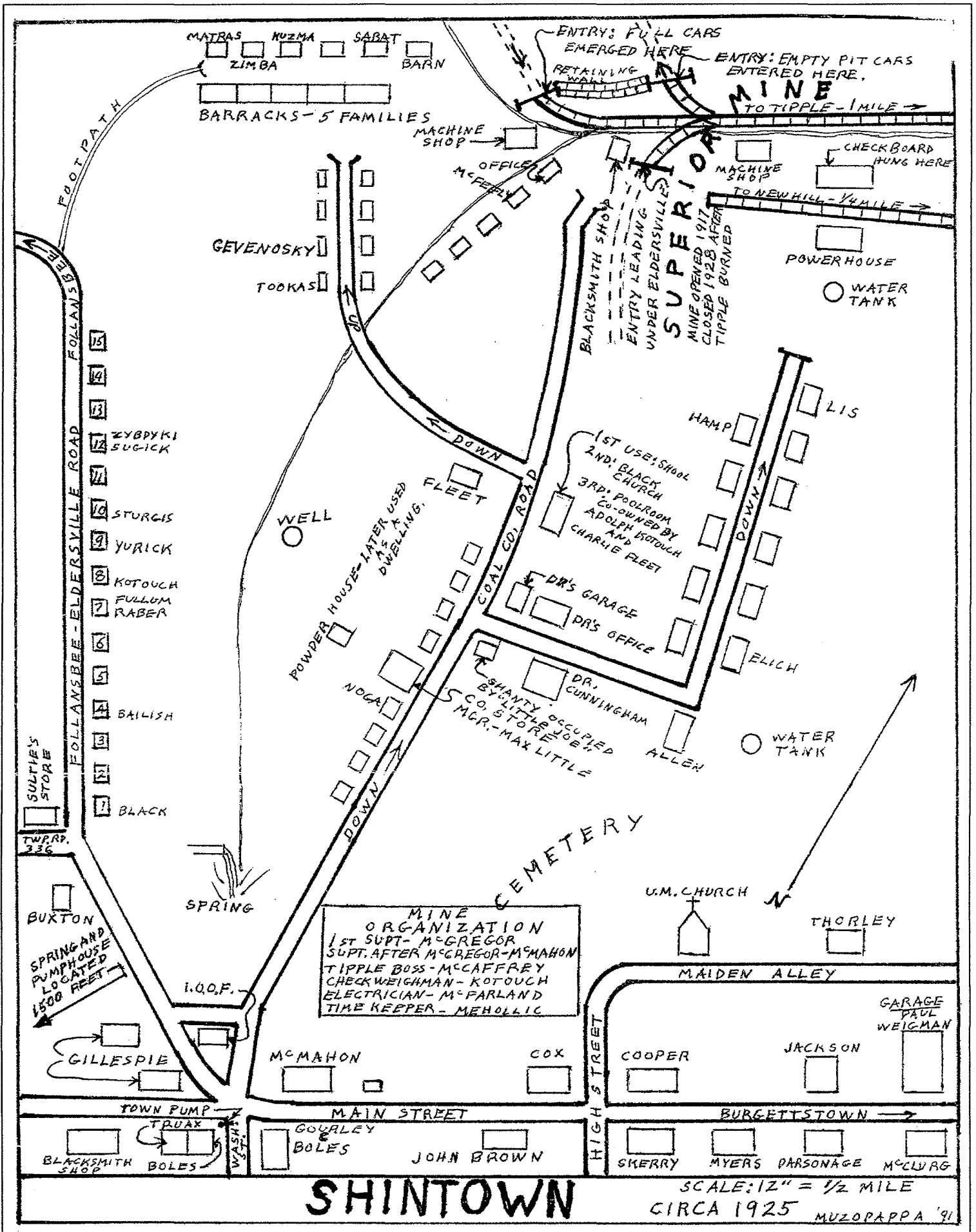
mines in the district is idle for the
vacation period prior to the ex-
piration of the U.M.W. of A. wage
agreement. Future operation of
the mine will probably be deter-
mined after a new miner's con-
tract has been made.

**Sale of Langeloth Coal Company to G. C. & C. Co. is Announced. Future Work
Policy will Depend on New Mine Contract. Mine Employed 175 Men.
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 3, 1947 Edition**

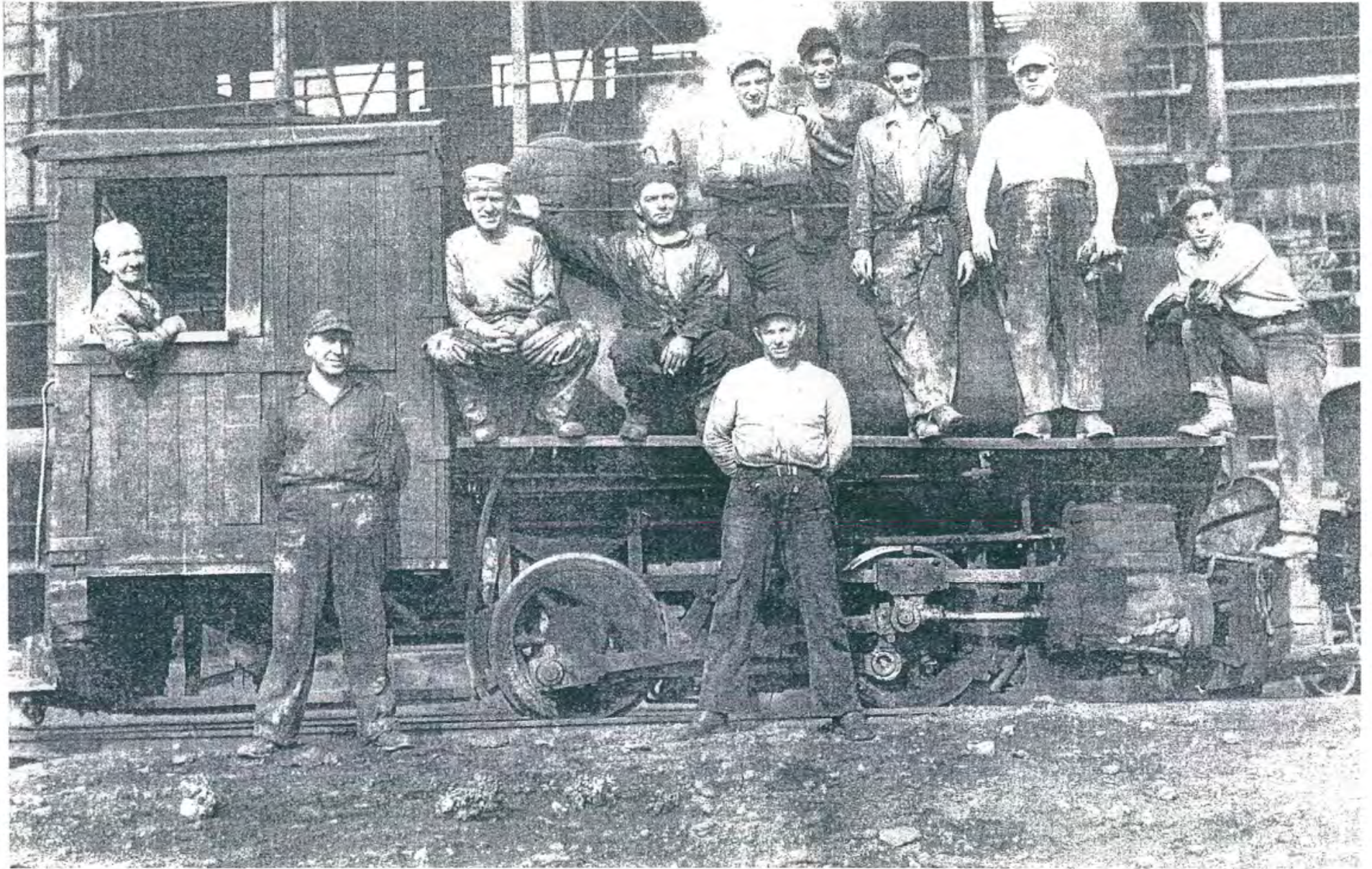
Scale Adopted at Avella.

New wage scales were posted at mine No. 9 of the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co., a Avella this week. The men are given a check weighman at the scales, and recognition of a pit committee. The scale was effected through a series of conferences between miner's committees, coal operators, and representatives of the miners' union.

**Coal Scale Wages Adopted at Avella
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 25, 1931 Edition**



Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society Center



Slovan Miners
July 1948
Fort Vance Historical Society

1941 SOFT COAL PRODUCTION WILL RISE, SAY EXPERTS

A 1941 coal production approaching the wartime high of 550,000,000 tons is forecast by John D. Battle, executive secretary of the National Coal Association.

The current year's tonnage of about 450,000,000 tons, he said surpassed that of 1939 by 50,000,000 tons; of 1938 by 100,000,000 tons; and of 1937 by 5,000,000 tons.

"The bituminous industry," he said "enters 1941 with prospects of further increases in mine output in pace with the steadily expanding activity in war industries as well as with increased demands for fuel coal in almost every channel.

"Mine operators are being geared to meet promptly and efficiently whatever demands for coal may eventuate but conditioned, as always, upon the sufficiency of transport facilities and the continuity of mine labor."

1941 Soft Coal Production will Rise
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 9, 1941 Edition

Special Meeting Called For April 13

Persons whose property is threatened by the mine fire rapidly sweeping along the western fringes of Burgettstown Borough are urged by Burgettstown Borough Council to attend a meeting called for April 13 at 8 p.m., at the council chamber. Other interested citizens from either Smith township or the Borough are urged to attend.

In recent weeks councilmen have become aware of the seriousness of the fire which is reported to be jeopardizing homes in the vicinity and affecting water in the area between Burgettstown and Francis Mine.

At a meeting of council Monday evening, March 27, a report was given by Phil Gray and George Wagner of the visits made recently by representatives of the Federal Bureau of Mines and the State Department of Mines. Richard Maize, secretary of mines for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Samuel Cortez, local representative for the state department and Mr. Griffith of the Federal Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh estimate the cost of a project to block the progress of the fire at approximately sixty or seventy thousand dollars.

Attorney Edward Sciamanna, solicitor for Burgettstown Borough, reported to council that he believed it possible to receive federal and state aid upwards to about two thirds of the total cost for controlling the fire, but it was also his understanding that the local districts affected would have to meet a portion of the cost—a maximum of about \$25,000, possibly.

Atty. Sciamanna and the committee from council, appointed to give special consideration to the fire, namely Charles Scott and Phil Gray and George Wagner, plan to contact both federal and state agencies and local industries and utilities as well as governing bodies directly or indirectly affected by the fire in an effort to secure the necessary funds.

The tentative report of the mine inspectors revealed that unless immediate action is taken a number of families will be forced to evacuate their homes. In a few years time, other property owners living north and east of the section where the fire now rages will find their homes damaged.

Councilmen are deeply concerned over the alarming progress of the fire in the past three years and are earnestly urging all citizens to cooperate with them in whatever project they choose to follow for controlling the fire. The presence of those immediately affected by the fire at this time is especially requested at the meeting April 13.

**Special Meeting Called for Property Owners Threatened by Underground Mine Fire
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 30, 1950 Edition**

Spreading Underground Mine Fire Will Take \$60,000 To Smother, Officials Estimate. Council Hopes For Federal Aid For Job

Councilmen meeting with representatives of the United States Bureau of Mines in Council hall last Wednesday arrived at a tentative plan of procedure to get action on stopping the spreading underground mine fire in the workings of the Old Burgettstown Coal Company, which is threatening homes in the vicinity of Francis Mine in Smith township at the edge of the Borough and also threatens to spread into cellars of homes on Florence avenue, Burgettstown.

The meeting was attended by Councilmen George Wagner, Charles Scott, Phil Gray and Clair Martin representing the Borough, and F. E. Griffith, chief of the coal mine fire control section of the United States Bureau of Mines and Glen J. R. Toothman, mining engineer of Pittsburgh.

It is estimated that it will cost from \$60,000 to \$70,000 to smother the fire. Of this amount, Federal men told Councilmen that two-thirds will be paid by the Federal government if the other one-third is raised by the county, township and borough affected. However, they said, the money, must be paid on the line before the project starts. Since July 1 marks the end of the fiscal year for the federal government, it is doubtful if funds can be obtained from that source, before July 1, 1950. In the meantime the Federal government will send men in to the territory to study the fire and to map a plan of procedure. Federal men made it clear that releases will have to be signed by all property owners located above the Pennsylvania railroad.

The plan will be to seal up all mine entrances and to use prime bulldozers to move earth into the holes to smother the fire. Councilmen and Federal representatives were agreed that the spreading fire poses a serious threat to the safety of borough and township homes and occupants. Last month a pot hole nearly 30 feet deep suddenly appeared in the yard of the Pescho property, adjacent the borough line, and smoke has been coming through the ground at many places in this area. A raging fire of burning coals, directly beneath the earth's surface is spreading through the workings of the old Burgettstown coal mine and recent tests have shown it to be spreading over wider territory and that it is becoming increasingly hotter and more destructive.

**Spreading Underground Mine Fire will Take \$60,000 to Smother
Burgettstown Enterprise-March 30, 1950 Edition**



Srender Mine
Located between Cedar Grove and Avella, PA

STATE TROOPERS HELP IN CONSTABLE RESCUE.

Officer Threatened by Irate Men
and Women—Slovan Trouble
Among Mine Pickets

Constable William H. Hamilton of Washington was the storm center of a crowd of irate men and women at Slovan on Thursday of last week when pickets endeavored to prevent men from returning to work at the Langeloth mine. The constable had arrested three women of the village for alleged disorderly conduct in connection with an attack upon an aged miner. He released them when he was surrounded by a threatening crowd.

He was rescued from the crowd by five mounted State troopers and with the arrival of 11 additional members of the state forces the picketing at the Langeloth mine was stopped. After the excitement of the morning was over the officers arrested three women and one man.

Members of the National Miners' Union of Slovan and the surrounding district were incensed over the speech of Governor Pinchot at the encampment of National Guardsmen, in which the governor was quoted as saying he would call out the National Guard to maintain order in Western Pennsylvania mining sections if necessary. This the miners designated as "a declaration of war upon the entire working class of Pennsylvania."

Union officials in the near by district laid the blame for conditions on the operators and the Federal and State governments. They declared that Governor Pinchot's speech regarding the calling out of state troops was "a threat to crush all present and future struggles of the unemployed and strikers in every industry."

Following the fracas on Thursday there has been no disorder of any kind in the local area. Practically all mines in the Burgettstown district are working more or less. Coal trade is not particularly good at this time and a number of mines are working on a part time basis only.

Prospects for work in the region for the winter seem somewhat improved. It is believed considerable coal business will be secured for the local mines, and that other work will be available in the near future.

State Troopers Help in Constable Rescue
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 13, 1931 Edition

STRIKES AGAIN OCCUR IN AVELLA MINE AREA

Unfortunate Community Suffering for
Food and Shelter in Midst
of More Trouble

Scarred from battles among laboring men, stricken by abject poverty extending over a period of two years, the mining section of Avella again faces the prospect of a strike war on the part of miners at Aurora mine. While the mines are endeavoring to operate to provide some employment it appears some of the men still are discontented and refuse to work when an opportunity is afforded them.

Men of the Aurora mine of the Duquesne Coal and Coke Company are out. The mine has been working every day on a small scale. Thursday morning of last week only 15 men showed up for work. Sixty men were on picket duty, these men were in two groups on the highway stopping all who tried to go to work.

What the strike was called for no one seems to know. No committee has made any move to see the officials of the company to file complaints. No one seemed to know about this strike until late Wednesday night, when a few agitators went through the mining camp and told the men that a strike was taking place the next day.

The strikers call themselves United Mine Workers. It is understood that the officers are as follows: President, Robert Campbell; vice president, Robert Anderson; recording secretary, Ted Daly; treasurer, John Navish. All these men except John Navish live in the company houses at Aurora.

The mine had just received an order which would have enabled the men to work every day. The company store at Aurora was closed Friday at noon. All the day men were laid off. Officials of the company said that no attempt would be made to break the strike. The mine has been closed indefinitely.

**Strikes Again Occur in Avella mine Area
Burgettstown Enterprise- February 11, 1932**



Taking Food to the Mines by Sled
Unknown Mine-Unknown Year
Fort Vance Historical Society

Tear-Gas Disperses Mine Pickets.

Special to The New York Times.

BURGETTSTOWN, Pa., March 28.

—Tear gas was used today to disperse a crowd of 400 striking miners picketing the Bulger Block Coal Company's mine near here. Several shots were fired, it is said. Seven men were arrested, one of them J. R. Fern, organizer for the United Mine Workers.

Tear-Gas Disperses Mine Pickets
New York Times-March 29, 1928 Edition

Hero's story revealed

Physician finds Mon Valley mine disaster tale through ancestry research

By SCOTT BEVERIDGE
Staff writer
sbeveridge@observer-reporter.com

A physician in the state of Indiana was presented with a difficult challenge while researching his ancestry with the last name of Smith.

Thomas Dixon Smith V would finally reveal, using his unusual middle name while searching English census records, the mystery in his family about the fate of his great-great-grandfather, who died a hero in a 1901 coal mine disaster in the Mon Valley.

"It took me years to figure this out," said Smith, 64, of Fort Wayne. "There are thousands of Thomas Smiths in English census records."

He also narrowed his search by using his great-great-grandmother's maiden name of Cuthbertson, a detail provided to him by his great-uncle, Robert Smith of Midway.

His great-great-grandfather arrived in Philadelphia from England Sept. 20, 1880, and would make his way to Smithton and work in Port

**“IT TOOK ME YEARS
TO FIGURE THIS OUT.”**
THOMAS DIXON SMITH V

Royal Mine No. 2 in nearby Rostraver Township.

The name also appeared in a 2001 article in a Pittsburgh newspaper commemorating the 100th anniversary of back-to-back explosions in the mine that claimed the lives of 19 miners. Thomas Dixon Smith was among a rescue party of 16 men who went into the mine when the second explosion occurred.

He was the last to die five days later from burns and shock in McKeesport Hospital and was buried in a grave that went unmarked in Richland Cemetery, Dravosburg, Smith said.

A granite marker, donated by the North Hill Marble and Granite Co. of Akron, Ohio, was finally placed on the grave Aug. 7 after Smith unraveled the mystery and located the grave site.

"I was never made aware



SCOTT BEVERIDGE / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Thomas Dixon Smith V of Fort Wayne, Ind., is shown with his cousin, Edith "Jean" Bishop, 91, of Bulger, at a memorial to victims of the Port Royal Mine disaster.

of the circumstances of his death, but I was intrigued, being named Thomas Dixon Smith V, as to whether this long chain of namesakes was simply whimsical, or was

some form of legacy," he said.

Smith said he wanted to have his great-grandfather's story published to inform the many descendants of the min-

er now living in Washington County, including his surviving cousin, 91-year-old Edith "Jean" Bishop of Bulger, and the Pittsburgh region about the sacrifice the man made.

**Hero's Story Revealed-Thomas Dixon Smith
Observer-Reporter-August 30, 2014 Edition**

Mine Inspected

Use of permissible explosives for all onshift blasting is among the few safety improvements recommended in an inspection report on the Thomassy mine at Burgettstown, Washington County, Pa., released today by the Bureau of Mines. The report commends a number of safety improvements recently completed or begun. Operated by the Union Coal Company, the mine employed 42 men and produced 200 tons of coal a day when E. P. Thomas inspected it in February.

Observing that about 75 percent of the miners were using permissible explosives fired in a permis-

sible manner for onshift blasting, Inspector Thomas said all of them should do so. He discussed the dangers of black powder, fired with squibs ignited by matches, with the superintendent, who, he reported, had induced some of the miners to switch to permissibles. During the inspection, permissible singleshot blasting units were provided for the four miners without them, and all the blasting cables were staggered at the detonator ends.

Ventilation was good, the inspector reported, but he advised offsetting the ventilating fan at least 5 feet from the nearest side of the mine opening and equipping it with a fireproof air duct and pressure relief. He said that smoking and carrying matches and smokers' materials underground should be discontinued.

The only other recommendation were for telephone service at the working area, guarding some exposed gears, and storing an adequate supply of first-aid materials near the working faces.

Among other improvements were frame-grounding the mining machines, providing overload protection for the mining-machine trailing cables, testing the roof before and after blasting on shift, adopting an effective check-in-and-out system, and maintaining the emergency escapeways reasonably free from standing water and other obstructions.



Tipple at the Foot of Bulger Hill.

L-T: Jim, Tom, Rezin Ralston-Engineer, and Kate. Jim Kelly owned the mine. Twelve to fifteen, non-union worked the mine. Often, fired miners would go to work there. Milford Jones, boss's son dumped coal into railroad cars. Rezin Ralston operated the boiler to run the cars up the tipple. No electricity available. Highest wages paid were 83 3/8 cents an hour.

TO CONTROL MINE FIRE ON WEST BOROUGH LINE STRIPPING OPERATIONS CONSIDERED BY COUNCIL;

A mine fire threatening property on the west borough line again held the attention of Burgettstown councilmen in Monday evening. Messrs. W. J. Whalen, Jr. and Raymond Coulter, owners of land formerly belonging to Effie Tenan, were present in the hope of securing a permit from council to strip land west of Tenan and Whitaker streets so that the fire menace might be partially controlled. The stripping plan is in accordance with recommendations for fire control presented to council by Mine Inspectors McGregor and McKay.

Council was hesitant to permit such stripping operations since a present ordinance forbids stripping in the borough. It was the opinion of the solicitor that stripping might be done, however, as a fire prevention measure providing council held enough scientific information to support belief in a fire menace.

Some councilmen questioned the borough's responsibility in advocating any measure for fire control at all. Others were of the opinion that any stripping which might be done should be carried far enough to eradicate the possible menace in the Florence avenue district. Since no one is able to determine the actual boundaries of the fire, council is hampered in adopting any definite plan of procedure. Several councilmen believe that the borough must not assume any financial responsibility in a stripping project.

Two special meetings have been planned for the near future: councilmen together with Mine Inspector W. J. McGregor and residents of Florence avenue will meet on a date to be decided this week, and councilmen with W. J. Whalen, Raymond Coulter and Irwin Miller of the Mullett Coal Company will hold a special session February 17.

Council accepted a resolution permitting the Union Coal Company to dump slate on borough property beyond Erie Mine in accordance with a plan presented by Charles Scott, purchaser of land formerly belonging to the Burgettstown Realty Company.

Charles Scott also made a plea for the improvement of Hindman avenue, but was informed by council that problems related to sewage disposal must be considered and that the borough fathers are awaiting plans from the Economy League for street improvement.

The board of health was advised to investigate conditions related to sanitation on Erie street, and the sewer committee was told to consider problems related to sewage on Center avenue at the request of Fred Panconi.

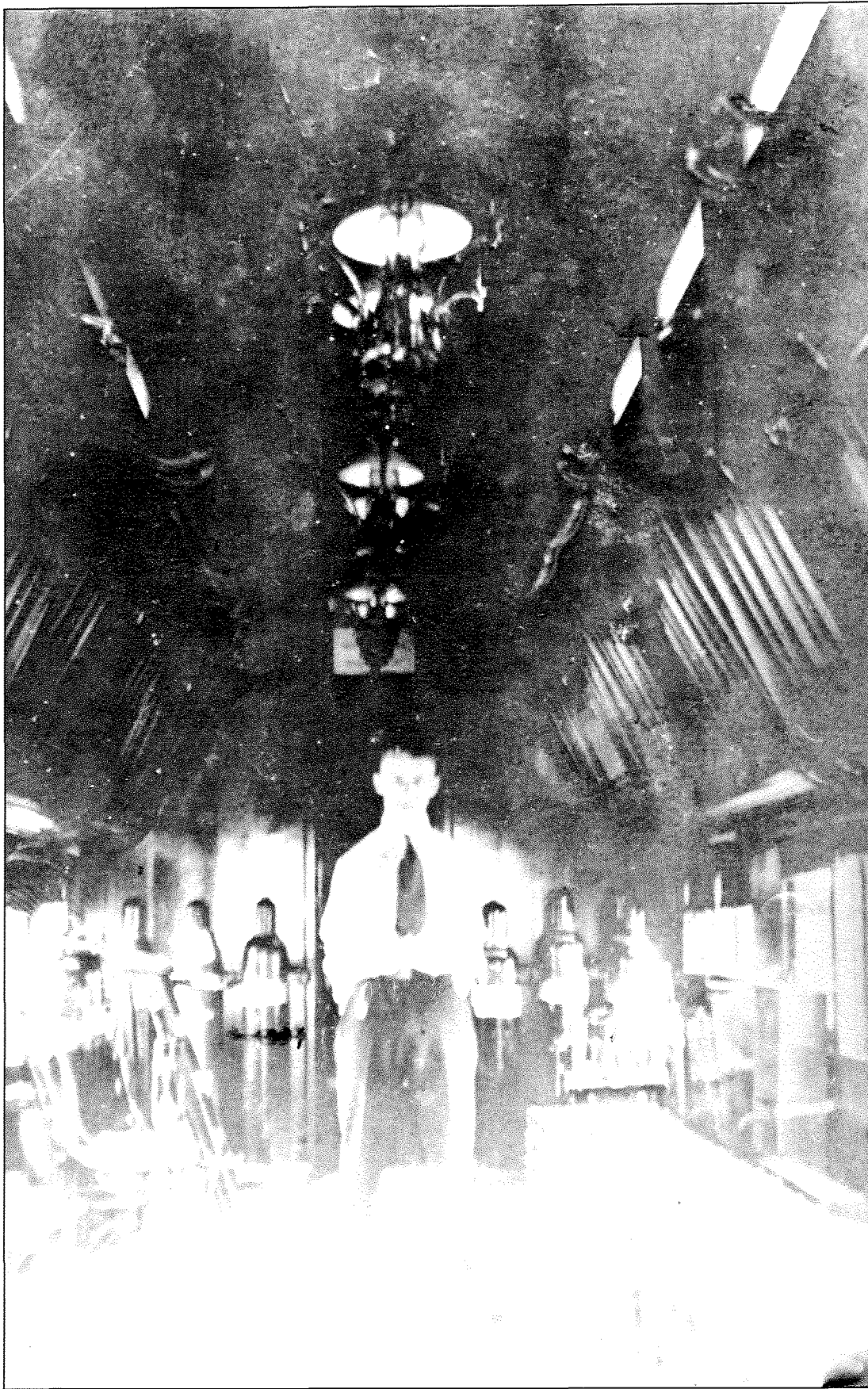
The light committee considered the possibility of moving a street light from Railroad street to the

parking lot at the rear of Petrucci's store; likewise the moving of a light on Main street to a spot near the Mary Ann theatre. A request was made for a light near the property of Ben Kobe on Hindman avenue.

It was announced that Ben Kobe would raise the sidewalk near Charlie's Wallpaper Store providing the borough would raise the curb. A widening of the street in the same area was discussed.

Council agreed to restore planks in the parking lots, and attention will be given to the conservation of hose for use by the street commissioner.

The police reported a total of 9 arrests, three for drunkenness, four for disorderly conduct, and two for drunkenness and disorderly conduct and a total of \$74. collected in forfeits. Seven parking tags were issued. Police were advised to take particular notice of cars parked on sidewalks in the borough.



**U.S. Bureau of Mine Rescue Car
Cedar Grove, PA-1921**

Interior view of the Mine Rescue Car.
The car was sent to the mine every few years to demonstrate safety measures.

Fort Vance Historical Society



**U.S. Bureau of Mine Rescue Car
Cedar Grove, PA-1921**

Interior view of the Mine Rescue Car.
The car was sent to the mine every few years to demonstrate safety measures.

Fort Vance Historical Society

Union Coal Leases Langeloth Mine

Announcement has been made that the Union Coal Company has leased the Langeloth Mine from the Greensburg - Connellsville Coal and Coke Company and plans to erect a tipple at Langeloth in the near future. The Union Coal Company began operations Tuesday, June 1, and expects to continue running the mine with the same personnel that Greensburg-Connellsville has employed. Present output averages 200 to 250 tons of coal per day. Employees number about 50.

**Union Coal Leases Langeloth Mine
Burgettstown Enterprise-June 3, 1948 Edition**

**NEW AGREEMENT EXTENDS
WORK WEEK IN AREA**

The signing of an agreement between the United Mine Workers of America and the coal mining subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation makes 26,500 employes eligible to work 48 hours a week now instead of 35.

The workers, more than 13,000 of whom are in western Pennsylvania, will receive time and one-half for all work over 35 hours. Their average pay is \$8 a day, with a minimum of \$7 for seven hours.

— v —



View of the town Bulger and Bulger Block Coal-Abt. 1955

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

COAL WASHER PLANT IS LOCATED AT AVELLA

**Site Location is Changed Owing to
Failure to Get Title to
Original Ground**

Operations have been started preliminary to the erection of a coal washing plant near Avella. Work of grading for the siding from the P. & W. Va. railroad is under way by the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co.

Originally it was planned to build the plant near the West Middletown stop on the Wabash line. Unable to get a clear title, the Taplin interests changed the location and it will be erected on ground owned by the Pittsburgh & Youghiogheny Coal Company and the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co.

The new site is located just on the outskirts of the town of Avella, one mile from the railroad station there.

The steam shovel which had commenced operations on the first proposed site was moved last week to the new location and it is understood work will be rushed with all possible speed.

Practically all the coal mined in this district will be washed at the plant, it is believed, as washed coal finds a market more readily than that which is dumped on cars as it comes from the tipples with most of the slate and slack removed.

Employment will be given to additional men during the construction and others when the plant is completed.

**WORK BEGUN ON TIPPLE
AT MINE NEAR RACCOON**

RACCOON,—Work has been started on a new tipple at the Armide mine of Carnegie Coal Company, near here, it was reported. The old tipple was torn down last year.

Stripping of the coal will begin as soon as the tipple is completed. The coal has been sold and will be mined under new ownership.

**Work Begun on Tipple at Mine Near Raccoon
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 14, 1941 Edition**

West Virginia Mine Goes "Open Shop."
Special to The New York Times.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Sept. 1.—Ending two weeks' controversy between the United Mine Workers and the Bertha Consumers Fuel Company, with general offices in Pittsburgh, notices were posted at the Bertha mine property in this county today that the company has ceased to recognize the union and will operate on the "open shop" basis.

Old employes are to get preference in returning to work under the 1917 scale, in the notices read, but it was intimated that steps would be taken at once to fill their places and company houses now occupied by union men would be demanded for new employes.

The Bertha Company operates four mines in West Virginia, three of which are now non-union and one union. All of the company's mines in Pennsylvania, including those at Burgettstown, Liberty Indiana County and near Avella, are union, while the workings in Kentucky are non-union.

The Bertha Consumers Fuel Company has always been "very friendly" with the United Mine Workers' union.



Shintown-Eldersville, PA
John Cleland and Bob McFarland, Building Contractors
Miners and Builders of the Shintown-1917
Fort Vance Historical Society

Twelve Inch Pipeline Is Moving Through Area To Furnish Gas To Weirton Hilltop Homes

Manufacturer's Light and Heat Co., is rushing to complete 14 miles of twelve inch pipeline, at an estimated cost of \$621,000. The new line which passes through the Greater Burgettstown Community will extend from Primrose to Frankfort Springs.

At the present time 80 men, employed by the William Austin Co., of Pittsburgh, contractors for construction of the pipeline, are working 10 hours a day, 7 days a week to attempt completion of the job before Dec. 31.

The new pipeline, which parallels an existing 10 inch gasline, will be used to augment the natural gas supply to the Steubenville-Weirton area. The present 10 inch line can transmit 15 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The new line will be capable of carrying 25 million cubic feet of gas per day from the main trunk transmission system at Primrose, which draws from Manufacturer's \$71 million dollar gas farm storage area at Donegal and Majorsville.

However, a company spokesman emphasized in an interview yesterday that the gas that this new pipeline moves into the area is to be used only to complement the present 10 inch line and guarantee adequate supply to the users in the Weirton-Steubenville area.

This new pipeline, that passes through the Greater Burgettstown Community, is only part of 16 million dollars that Manufacturer's Light and Heat is spending this year in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Fourteen miles of 26 inch line, capable of carrying 71 million cubic feet of gas per day, was recently completed near Washington, Pa.

Big Gasser is Struck.

A 6,000,000-foot gas strike was reported last week from the No. 3 well on the Asbury Stout farm, near Claysville, by the Natural Gas Co. of West Virginia. The well was drilled into the top of the Fourth sand. Edward Tague of Washington drilled the well. It is reported that the well brought in recently on the Brownlee farm failed to continue production.

Lawrence Gas Company Gets a Good Well.

Kerr No 1, on the Boyd farm, one-half mile south of this place, was drilled in Thursday of last week by the Lawrence Gas Co., and is good for a fifteen barrel producer. This well opens up a new pool and will no doubt cause considerable activity among the oil producers of this section.

Court Appoints Viewers.

Upon the petition of John P. Donnan and others the court has submitted a panel of viewers to ascertain the damage occasioned the petitioners by the laying of a ten-inch pipe line across their farm in Smith township by the Western Pennsylvania Gas Co. The panel from which viewers will be selected on October 18, is composed as follows:

James Myers, John Z. Beck, South Strabane; Edward McDonald, Jerry Berry, McDonald; W. B. Chambers, John L. McClelland, Howard Cockins, Cannonsburg; John G. Paxton, Houston; George S. Hanlin, Hanlin Station; W. Craig Lee, Cross Creek; John P. Linn, John W. Pry, Burgettstown; Edward Tope, Cecil township; Frank McClay, Canton; D. M. Donehoo, Washington.

**GOOD GAS STRIKE ON
FARM AT CROSS CREEK**

CROSS CREEK—A good gas strike was made on the Samuel S. Dunbar farm here. An open flow of 500,000 cubic feet is reported with pays in the Big Injun, Berea and Hundred Foot sands. Another location will be made on the lease, which contains 100 acres.

'WE WANT TO BE SAFE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. EVERYBODY HAS THAT RIGHT.'

Hanover residents express concern



EMILY PETSKO / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Pam Chappell of Hanover Township points to the site on Steubenville Pike where an access road would be constructed if township officials approve a conditional-use application by Hydro Recovery to construct a facility to recycle frack water. At right, Chappell put a sign in her front yard to appeal to supervisors to vote down a proposed facility for recycling frack water.

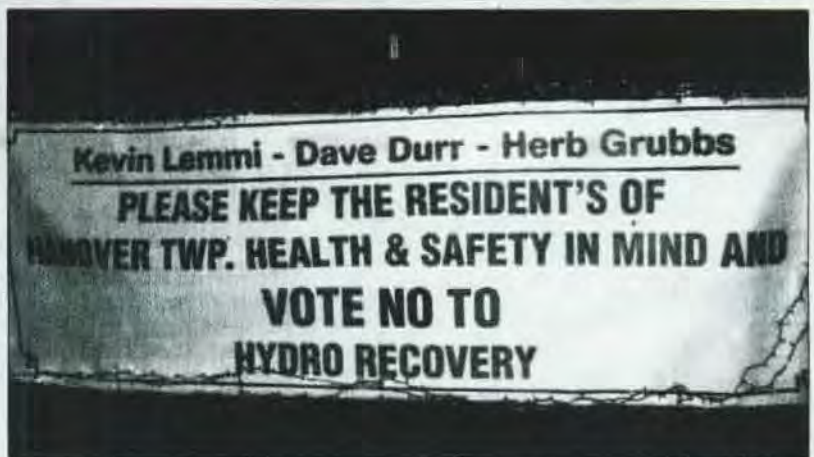


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAM CHAPPELL

Possible frack water-treatment facility raises alarm for locals

By EMILY PETSKO
Staff writer
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

FLORENCE—Five hundred seventy-eight yards. That's the distance from Pam Chappell's home in Florence, Hanover Township, to the site of a proposed tank farm that would process and recycle frack water.

Step by step, Chappell measured the distance with a rangefinder— from her picnic table to her grape arbor and from there to Golfland on

Route 22, which Chappell said is roughly 200 yards from the proposed industrial site.

Chappell and a dozen of her neighbors said the short distance from the proposed water-treatment facility to their homes and township park is cause for concern.

Township supervisors could vote to approve or deny the site application as early as Feb. 20 after a public hearing is held at 6:30 p.m. at the municipal building.

Hydro Recovery LP, based in Blossburg, needs township approval to construct six double-containment tanks capable of storing as much as 12 million gallons of liquid waste altogether.

The company has a sales agreement for 20 acres of industrial-zoned land between Old Steubenville Pike and Route 22 that is currently owned by The Buncher Co., a Pittsburgh real estate group.

If the site application is

approved, Hydro Recovery truck drivers would transport flowback and produced water from gas well pads to the Hanover Township facility. The facility would then treat and recycle the water, and it would be transported back to well sites to use in the hydraulic fracturing process.

The liquid waste also could contain frack sand, boring fluids from pipeline construction and stormwater collected in

an operator's secondary containment, according to information provided by Hydro Recovery.

The company would construct a new 2,500-foot access road about 100 feet east of the existing Golfland entrance, which would be widened by about 60 feet.

Hydro Recovery estimates it would bring in an average of 150 trucks per day, operating around the clock.

Please see Frack, Page A2

Frack

Continued from Page One

The site would include six truck bays, with secondary containment to load and unload liquid waste, at the south end of the property between the facility and Route 22.

Teresa Irvin McCurdy, Hydro Recovery government and public relations manager, said trucks could come into Hanover Township from any distance, but "economically we found most of the trucking will be within 60 miles to reduce trucking cost."

Chappell said increased truck traffic would be her greatest fear. She said Pittsburgh doctors told her her father, a truck driver, died from environmental cancer caused by diesel exhaust fumes.

"I feel like I'm basically being pushed out of my home that my parents left me," Chappell said. "I'm 44 years old. I was raised here."

Chappell mailed letters to township residents urging them to speak out and attend the upcoming public hearing, which was continued from a hearing last month.

She also posted a large, lighted sign in her front yard addressed to township supervisors Kevin Lemmi, David Duerr and Herb Grubbs, calling on them to "vote no to Hydro Recovery."

Some residents have questioned why the company isn't considering land in the Starpointe Business Park, which is farther from residential properties.

Grubbs, Ted Shiska and Brian Beyerbach, members of the township planning commission, agreed at last month's meeting that the water-treatment facility should be located at Starpointe.

However, they also recommended seven conditions for supervisors to impose if they approve the facility at the Florence site.

These included stipulations on the access road entrance; updating signs and traffic signals in Florence; ensuring plans are reviewed and approved by the township engineer and Hanover fire department; and ensuring the township receives inspection reports from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Grubbs, who is both a supervisor and planning commission member, said Tuesday "there's been a lot of stuff tossed around, but nothing solid."

He said supervisors will listen to residents' concerns at the public hearing and consider setting rea-



The access road for a proposed frack water recycling facility in Hanover Township would be across from Hanover Acre Apartments on Steubenville Pike, which are owned by Cyndy Triebisch of Smith Township.

"I FEEL LIKE I'M BASICALLY BEING PUSHED OUT OF MY HOME THAT MY PARENTS LEFT ME. I'M 44 YEARS OLD. I WAS RAISED HERE."
PAM CHAPPELL,
HANOVER TWP. RESIDENT

sonable conditions.

McCurdy said Hydro Recovery still has an open dialogue with Starpointe, but the company "would have to access Starpointe by way of the Steubenville Pike; therefore, the same trucking issues may still arise."

She said the topography at Starpointe would also create challenges because more earthwork would need to be done.

Dan Reitz, executive director of the Washington County Council on Economic Development, said Hydro Recovery is still participating in discussions regarding the potential site at Starpointe.

"We put together a site toward the back of the (industrial) park away from residential areas," Reitz said, adding that from that location, residents would "never even know it's there."

Reitz said the land is already zoned for special use, and he doesn't envision it would be difficult to have the company's application approved for Starpointe.

McCurdy said Hydro Recovery previously applied for a zoning variance on a lot across from First Niagara Pavilion, which "would have eliminated the trucking problem by keeping trucks on Route 18," but it was denied by the township.

The proposed access road



Hanover Township residents Dawn Paden, left, and Barbara Zianni are shown at Pam Chappell's home, where they recently discussed their opposition to the proposed Hydro Recovery facility.

to the Florence facility would be across from Hanover Acres, a 16-unit apartment development owned by Smith Township resident Cyndy Triebisch.

Triebisch said she would worry about the safety and health of her tenants if the facility is approved.

"The layout of the land is not conducive to this type of business," Triebisch said. "The safety and health primarily are the key right there."

"The noise, the smell... the toxins that are being brought in, the continuous running of the company... With all those trucks, I'm so concerned because it's near the entrance to our apartments, and I'm concerned for everybody's safety."

Hydro Recovery officials said the water treatment process does not produce vibration, noise or smells, and would not adversely affect the wetlands near the proposed site.

Company representatives also stated the tanks would be

designed to hold 110 percent of the largest tank's capacity in the event of a spill.

McCurdy said about 20 jobs would be created a full operation of the facility. The company operated two facilities since 2011 in Tioga County, where it stored 10 million gallons of untreated and treated brine water.

Hydro Recovery "has met and exceeds state Department of Environmental Protection requirements," according to the company.

Township resident Dawn Paden said she and her neighbors are not opposed to development, but she wants supervisors to consider another location for the Hydro Recovery facility.

"We're going to have activity, and we understand that, we do," Paden said. "Just don't believe the site they've chosen is going to be safe for us... We want to be safe in our neighborhood. Everybody has that right, and I believe that company is going to take that away from us."

THE LONG AGO

Events of Other Times From
Various Sources of Local
History and Old Legends

The following paragraphs are selected from the Enterprise of January 12, 1910—22 years ago:

* * *

At the annual meeting of the stock holders of the Washington National Bank of Burgettstown, the following directors were elected for the year: J. A. Ray, R. K. Scott, David G. Jones, M. R. Stephenson, A. C. Wilson, F. M. Barber, J. W. Keys, R. C. Vance and J. Winfield Reed.

* * *

A number of citizens met at Racoon and organized a Sabbath School which was to be held in the public school building. There were 25 persons present and the following officers were elected: Superintendent, Andrew Proudfit; secretary, Dr. H. E. Moore; treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Moore. Miss Lily Simpson was elected assistant superintendent.

* * *

Cyrus W. Boles of Eldersville kept a record of the weather of the year 1909, and reported as follows: Rain, 144 days; snow, 34 days; cloudy, 73 days; partly cloudy, 41 days; clear, 15 days; thunder and lightning, 39 days; hours of rain, 295; hours of snow, 26½.

* * *

The biggest gas strike in the local region so far reported was made in the Keener sand, on the T. M. Johnson farm, three miles south of the village of Cross Creek, in a well drilled by Kelly & Cooper. The production was estimated at about 5,000,000 cubic feet a day.

* * *

A meeting was held in the office of T. M. Hunt by a group of farmers of the local district, and an organization effected by the election of the following officers: President, J. B. Henderson, Burgettstown; secretary-treasurer, B. K. McConnell, Cecil township.

* * *

Deaths reported for the week were as follows: Mrs. J. W. English, wife of the Rev. J. W. English, a former pastor of the Robinson Run United Presbyterian Church, died at Riverside, California. She was 45 years of age. Mrs. Samantha Finnegan, aged 66 years, died at the home of her stepson, James A. Finnegan, at Frankfort Springs.

The Long Ago

Events of other Times from Various Sources of Local History and Old Legends
Enterprise- January 12, 1910



EMILY PETSKO / OBSERVER-REPORTER

From left, newly appointed Mt. Pleasant supervisor Dencil Backus spoke with attorney Charles Means, who drafted the conditional-use application document for the township, and Range Resources attorney Shawn Gallagher after a special meeting Friday.

Mt. Pleasant agrees to Marcellus pad

By EMILY PETSKO
Staff writer
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

From freshwater impoundment to recycled wastewater tank farm, Range Resources can now make the conversion with Mt. Pleasant Township's approval.

After shooting down several proposals from the Marcellus Shale company in recent months, township officials reached an agreement regarding the Stewart impoundment during a special meeting Friday.

Supervisors Larry Grimm, Bryan Smith and Dencil Backus – who was recently appointed to the board after Arden McCartney resigned – unanimously voted to ap-

prove the conditional use application of an above-ground storage facility for recycled frack water with special conditions. The vote permits Range to convert the Stewart impoundment on Caldwell Road, which holds freshwater, into enclosed storage tanks capable of holding 10 million gallons of recycled water. The board rejected earlier Range proposals that also called for the closing of Carter impoundment and legal recognition of Cowden and Clingerman impoundments, all of which were contested by some residents.

Before making a motion to approve the Stewart tank pad, Backus addressed a formal

Please see Agrees, Page A2

Agrees

Continued from Page One

motion made by Range attorney Shawn Gallagher asking Backus to recuse himself and abstain from voting. Backus criticized previous proposals submitted by Range regarding four water impoundments in the township.

Backus cited Section 603 of the Second Class Township Code, which states that a board member shall not be disqualified from voting on an issue “solely because the member has previously expressed an opinion on the issue,” either officially or unofficially.

“In the past, I have indeed expressed, on a number of occasions, a series of opinions about gas and oil related issues, but I have never made those statements in an official capacity and certainly not as a supervisor,” Backus said. “I fully understand that a township supervisor needs to make judgements based upon fairness, based upon good, honest evidence and the examination of those.”

In response, Gallagher said he believed Backus should not be permitted to vote because Section 603 only pertains to legislative action, not quasi-judicial decisions.

Regardless, the vote proceeded and Range representative Jim Cannon said he

was pleased with the result. “This is a step in the right direction,” said Cannon, manager of local government relations. Cannon said the company would review the eight conditions for the Stewart tank pad and decide how to proceed.

The document, drafted by attorney Charles Means, outlined eight conditions with which Range must comply, including regulations on odor, the removal of debris and waste, and dust abatement on the proposed access road. The previous access road would no longer be used. A chain-link fence at least eight feet high must be constructed around the pad site, tanks must be painted a color that blends in with surroundings and Range must screen the facility from properties on Quarry Lane.

Range is expected to reimburse the township for all fees, and Range must provide the township with a written lease specifically defining the leased site location prior to beginning construction. Lastly, Range must obtain a grading permit “if applicable and unless preempted or superseded by state or federal law.”

Smith felt relieved that the board had reached a consensus with Range regarding the Stewart impoundment. Smith said he hoped the township would continue to

ing three impoundments. “I think we’ve spent a lot of time and a lot of thought and a lot of sleepless nights,” Smith said. “I think we’re confident in the decision we made. I have a few more gray hairs over this.”

From the start, a group of residents urged township supervisors not to approve any measures that would allow continued operations of Range’s four water impoundments. Representatives from ten legal and environmental organizations sent a letter to supervisors and zoning board members prior to Friday’s meeting, urging them to vote down the proposal. The group based their argument on health and environmental concerns, potential changes in state oil and gas waste management laws and Range’s alleged violation of township zoning laws.

“Pollution events and problems at Range Resource’s Carter and other nearby impoundments serve as a cautionary tale for the residents of Hickory,” the letter read. “They clearly also do for the township, which correctly rejected Range Resource’s attempted ‘quid pro quo’ swap of one large-scale waste facility in an agricultural and residential area for another.”

The vote on Stewart impoundment was taken nearly a month after supervisors held a conditional-use hearing on the

**57 YEARS AGO
NATURAL GAS WAS
STRUCK IN THIS CO.**

The awesome roar of the strike of natural gas some 57 years ago can today be designated as having sounded the keynote for one of Washington County's greatest industries. It was following the strike of the McGugin gas well on the old McGugin farm, two and one-half miles southwest of Hickory, in March 1882, that five Washington men became fully aware of the presence of natural gas in Washington County.

Immediately they decided to drill for gas and supply the town. Their names included James B. Steator, Alexander M. Todd, Hugh A. Rodgers and two others, whose names are not recalled. Later A.B. Caldwell and Samuel Hazlett became affiliated with the project.

A contract was drawn up with the late William G. Gibson, an oil man from the upper country, to start drilling. The entire resources of all concerned were placed in the sinking of that shaft. A lease was secured on the Hess farm, and on April 30, 1884, gas was struck in paying quantities at a depth of 2,068 feet.

Following the strike at the Hess well, the Peoples Company purchased the Gordon farm and there made large strikes of both oil and gas. When Gordon No. 1 was brought in on August 22, 1885, oil was said to have flowed over the top of the derrick. This was Washington County's first gusher.

The strike was made in what was known to oil men from then on as "Gordon Sand". Ten wells were drilled on the Gordon farm, and until recently, six of these wells were still producing oil.

**57 Years Ago-Natural Gas was Struck in This County
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 4, 1940 Edition**

PEOPLES NATURAL GAS
ESTABLISHES FUND

Establishment of a fund to provide scholarships and other financial assistance for higher education to the children of employes who lose their lives in line of duty with the company is announced by E. M. Berger, president of The Peoples Natural Gas Company.

The fund has been established by The Consolidated Natural Gas Company, of which Peoples is a subsidiary, and is known as The Consolidated Natural Gas System Educational Foundation. Bankers Trust Company, New York, is trustee with a committee of five employes from the subsidiary companies as administrators. Funds are provided by Peoples and four other subsidiary companies.

The foundation will provide for instruction in colleges or universities, business schools, vocational or trade schools, professional schools and other private or public institutions of learning other than public or private grade or high schools or college preparatory schools. Financial assistance includes tuition, books, fees other like expenses and normal living expenses.

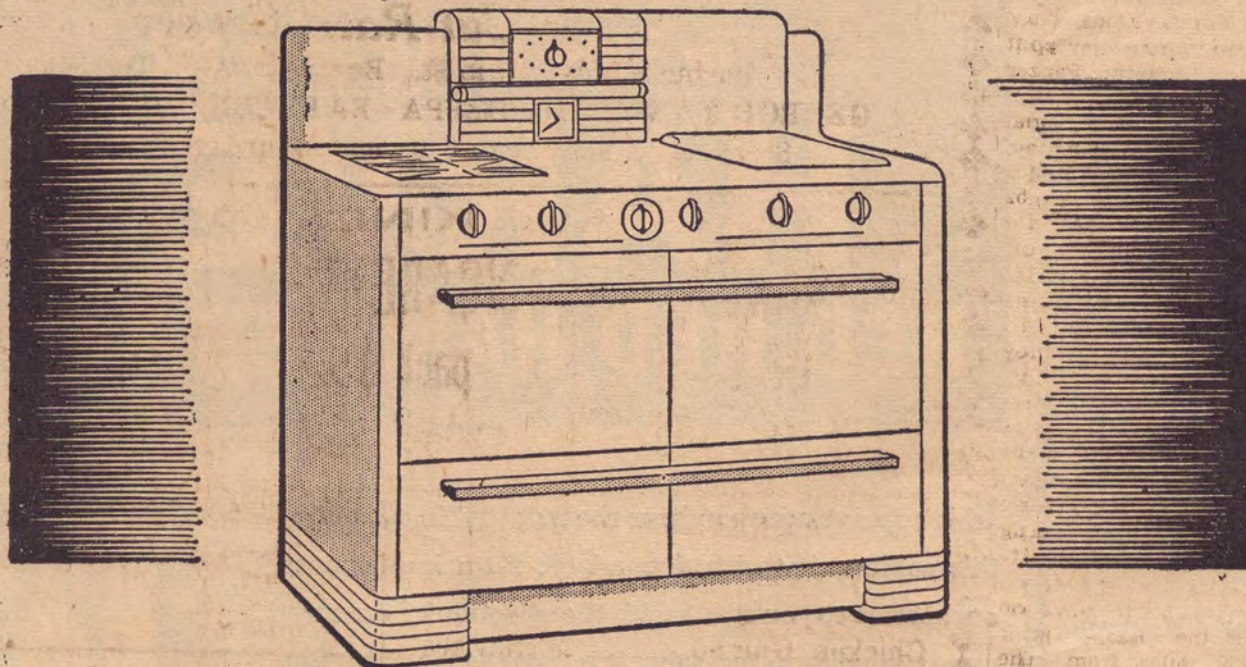
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**Peoples Natural Gas Establishes Fund
For Scholarships and other Assistance
Burgettstown Enterprise-August 9, 1945 Edition**

The Best Cooking Appliance Ever Invented

A MODERN **GAS** RANGE

- Attractive appearance
- Automatic operation
- Clean and easy to clean



- Fast, smokeless heat
- Dependable operation
- Automatic oven regulator
- Unmatched economy
- Heavy insulation for complete efficiency and a cooler kitchen

These and other qualities of the modern Gas range are reasons why you should see your Gas Appliance Dealer or our local office so you can be among the first in your neighborhood to enjoy a new, modern Gas range.

THE PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY

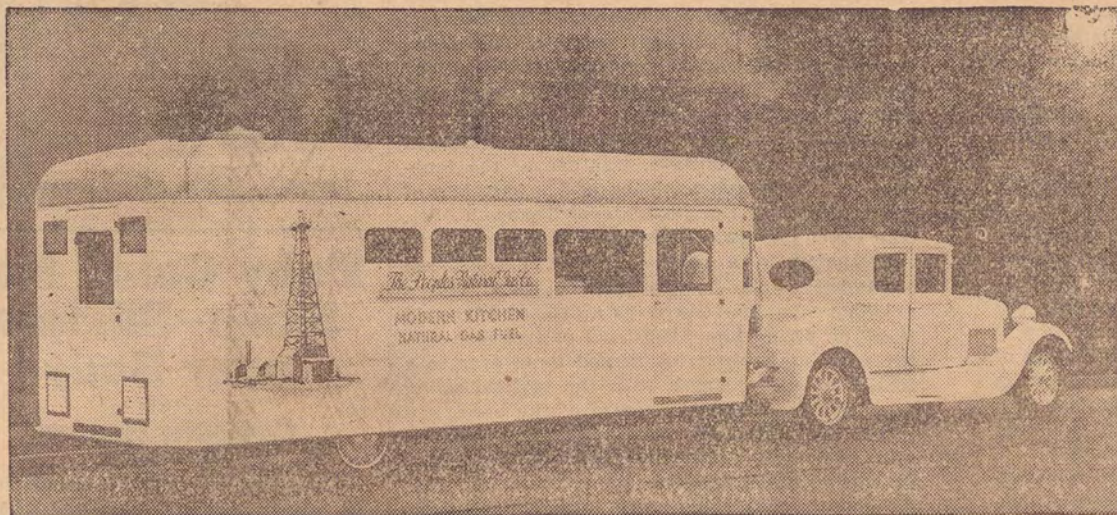
SERVING HOMES AND INDUSTRIES IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Local Advertisement
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 11, 1945 Edition

COMING . . . TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

THE TRAVELING DISPLAY OF ULTRA-MODERN NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES

You mustn't miss seeing this wonderful traveling display—the first in this section, one of the few in the entire country. It brings almost to your very door a collection of the latest devices for making house work easier, home life more pleasant, kitchens more efficient and beautiful. You are cordially invited to see it. Watch for the car as it cruises through your neighborhood . . . an announcement will be made from the car's loud speaker as to where the display will be parked for inspection.



Burgettstown and Vicinity
Heidelberg, Glendale and Bowertown

September 22 & 23
September 26



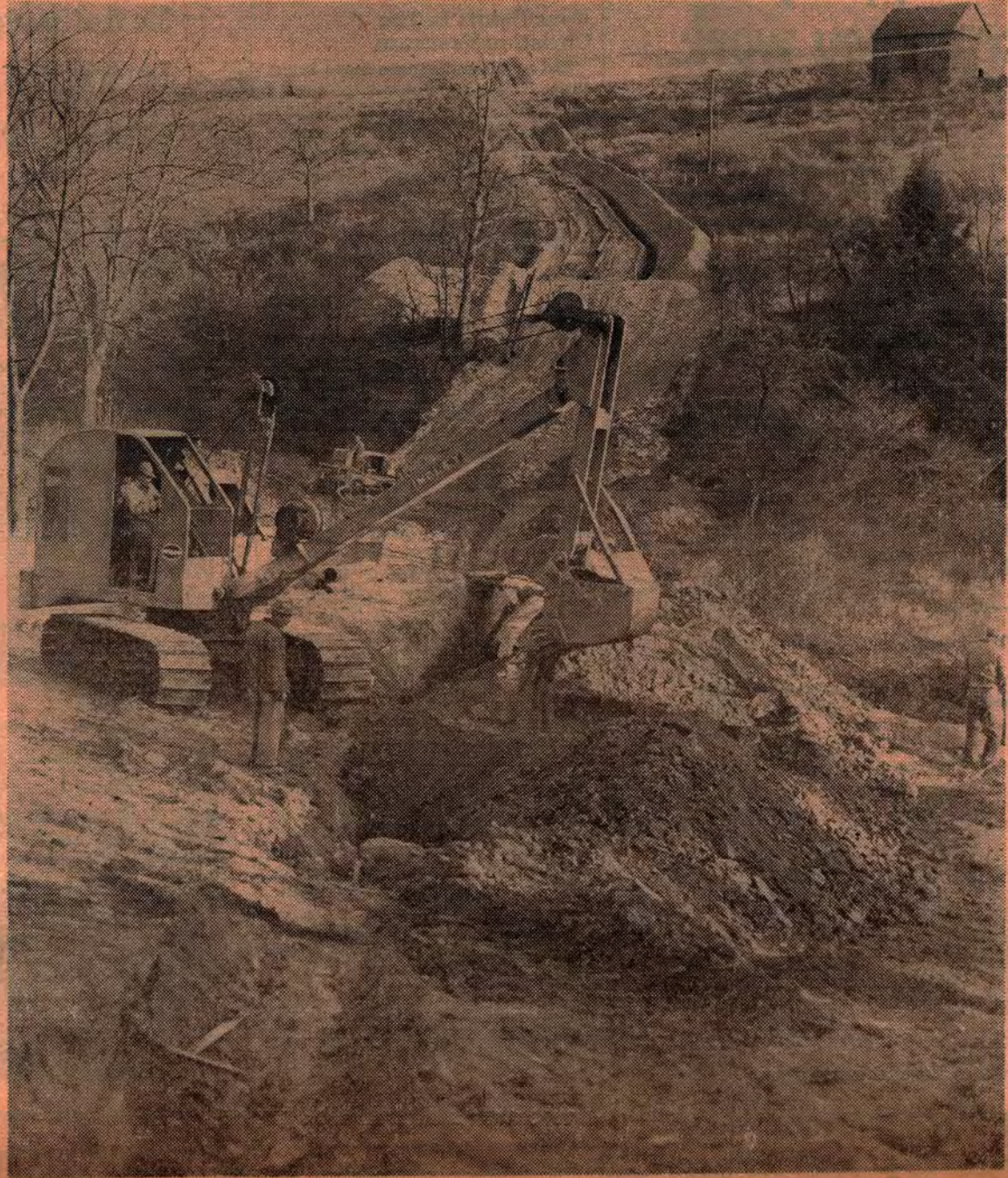
THE PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY

Phone 55

Burgettstown, Pa.

Local Advertisement
Burgettstown Enterprise-September 20, 1933 Edition

Pipeline Crosses Linn Farm Into Hanover Township



Moving right along, pipeline contractors rapidly lay line under a road edging the T. C. Linn farm in the Bavington area. In the background the pipeline is shown crossing the T. C. Linn farm.

**Pipeline Crosses Linn Farm into Hanover Twp.
Burgettstown Enterprise-November 12, 1953 Edition**

Pipeline project set for 2016

Will carry 3.25 billion cubic feet of gas per day to Midwest, Great Lakes

By MICHAEL BRADWELL
Business editor
mbradwell@observer-reporter.com

It's a natural gas pipeline called Rover, presumably because of its 700-mile stretch to reach big markets in the Midwest.

But its Washington County leg, despite its strategic location in the Marcellus Shale,

will be a short one.

A 10.59-mile portion of a 711-mile natural gas pipeline project that will carry gas produced from the Marcellus and Utica shales to user markets in Ohio, Michigan and beyond, should begin construction in Smith Township early next year, an official with Energy Transfer Partners said Friday.

Grant Ruckel, senior director of government affairs, described the company's Rover project to 130 members of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce during a breakfast meeting Friday.

While the project will be only a small fraction of the overall pipeline, its economic impact here will still be significant.

Ruckel said Energy Transfer will construct 10.59 miles of a 36-inch line that will originate at a compressor station it will build in Smith Township. Construction is expected to begin late in the first quarter of 2016.

The Pennsylvania line will carry gas from the station along 2.01 miles in Smith Township and another 8.58

miles in Hanover Township, before continuing across a portion of Hancock County in the West Virginia Panhandle and into Ohio's Carroll County, where it will connect with a dual 42-inch pipeline that is carrying gas produced in southern Ohio and northern West Virginia.

Please see Pipeline, Page B2



MICHAEL BRADWELL/OBSERVER-REPORTER

Grant Ruckel, right, of Energy Transfer, talks with Don Ivill, president of General Industries of Charleoi, following Ruckel's presentation on the upcoming Rover Pipeline project, a portion of which will be built in Washington County.

Pipeline

Continued from Page B1

The main lines, Ruckel said, will carry 3.25 billion cubic feet per day to markets in the Midwest, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast regions of the United States and into the Union Gas Dawn Storage Hub in Ontario, Canada.

While acknowledging the \$4.2 billion Rover project will help the region's gas producers reach new markets — some 68 percent of the gas will be delivered to Ohio, with another 32 percent in Michigan — Ruckel said Rover alone won't be enough to move the massive amounts of gas being produced here.

"There simply aren't enough pipes" to move the volume of gas coming out of the Marcellus and Utica strata, he said.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg in needed pipeline."

Energy Transfer, which was founded in 1995 in Texas, also owns Sunoco Logistics,

which is building the Mariner East 2 and Mariner West pipelines across Pennsylvania to a refining hub at Marcus Hook. The company also owns 6,500 retail gasoline stations operating under the Sunoco label. It also recently announced that it is buying pipeline company Williams.

Despite its relatively small footprint in Pennsylvania, Ruckel showed figures that Rover's 10.5-mile leg here will provide the Keystone State with \$900,000 in sales tax revenue during construction, with another \$1.3 million in property taxes.

During a question-and-answer session, he said Energy Transfer has a planned route for the Pennsylvania leg of the project.

He said the specific route will become known once the company receives a construction certificate from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which is expected in November.

Ruckel also said the Rover project will hire 100 percent skilled union labor, with Energy Transfer estimating

the buildout will need 10,000 construction jobs. The company estimated that figure will include between 150 and 300 construction positions in Pennsylvania, with about 30 to 40 permanent positions to be created throughout Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

According to Energy Transfer information, Rover will contribute nearly \$1 billion in direct spending to the U.S. economy, with 76 percent of the pipe to be manufactured in the United States, as well as all compression assembly and packaging.

The company said more than \$124 million will be made in direct payments to landowners for easements. Ruckel said about 80 percent of the pipeline will be buried beneath agricultural land.

Ruckel's visit to the chamber was part of more than 1,000 meetings Energy Transfer held over the past year across communities in Rover's proposed footprint. The meetings have included the public, municipal and business groups, he said.

Range appeals Mt. Pleasant decision

Company objects to portions of ruling

By EMILY PETSKO
Staff writer
epetsko@observer-reporter.com

Range Resources is appealing a decision by Mt. Pleasant Township officials pertaining to the conversion of a fresh-water impoundment into a recycled wastewater facility.

Last month, the board of supervisors approved Range's conditional use application to construct above-ground holding tanks at the site of the current Stewart impoundment and outlined eight special conditions that Range must follow. Range is appealing half of those conditions, in addition to the board's denial of Range's request for Supervisor Dencil Backus to excuse himself and refrain from voting at the Dec. 20 meeting.

Range attorney Shawn Gallagher filed the appeal Tuesday in the Washington County

Court of Common Pleas on behalf of the natural gas drilling company.

Range is not appealing the board's decision as a whole, but the company objects to portions of the decision that "impose erroneous and unreasonable conditions to the supervisors' otherwise proper approval of Range's zoning application for conditional use approval," according to the notice of appeal.

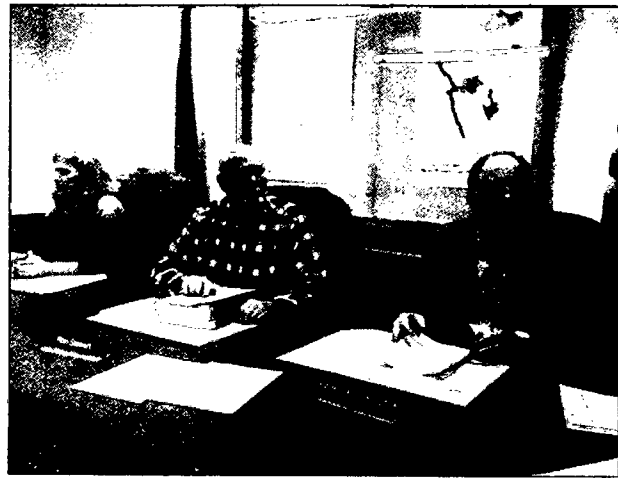
Range is disputing one condition that would require the company to investigate complaints of odor or air pollution on any adjoining property to the Stewart facility. Range would be required to inspect the vent and filtering systems installed inside the tanks and report all findings to the township. If the investigation reveals odor or air pollution, Range would be required to remedy the problem and

conduct ongoing tests "for a reasonable time" to confirm whether the remediation was successful.

In the notice of appeal, Range said air pollution is monitored by the state Department of Environmental Protection, and other conditions that were imposed by the township are "not reasonably related to a valid public interest."

Range is appealing the condition that would require the company to reimburse the township for all fees, arguing it violates a section of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Code.

Another condition calls for Range to "minimize and remove debris and waste" and to remove the existing Stewart impoundment liner from the property rather than bury the liner on subject property. Range's notice of appeal



KAREN MANSFIELD / OBSERVER-REPORTER

Mt. Pleasant Township Zoning Hearing Board members Barry Johnston, right, and Ron Stewart, middle, talk with residents following the zoning hearing board meeting January 13.

states, "The closure of the impoundment, as provided for in condition No. 5, must be done in accordance with a site reclamation or restoration plan that complies with DEP's rules and regulations applicable to the same."

Lastly, Range argued the

township's requirement of a grading permit is preempted by Act 13, the law governing oil and gas drilling in Pennsylvania.

Range stated that the company asked supervisors to reconsider these conditions

Please see Range, Page B3

Range

Continued from Page B1

Jan. 13 but did not receive a response.

"While Range tried to work cooperatively with Mt. Pleasant Township, the township and township supervisors have refused to apply the law as it relates to the development of Range's leasehold interests by imposing conditions that are contrary to law," reads the notice of appeal.

Range also stated in the notice that Backus, who was appointed to the board after Arden McCartney resigned, should not have been permitted to vote on the Stewart application because he previously criticized the company and sought legal counsel to oppose existing water impoundments in the township. Range argued Backus should have recused himself because he is an advocate who publicly expressed predisposition at

township meetings before he became a supervisor.

At the December meeting, Backus refused to recuse himself and cited Section 603 of the Second Class Township Code, which states a board member shall not be disqualified from voting on an issue "solely because the member has previously expressed an opinion on the issue," either officially or unofficially.

"In the past, I have indeed expressed, on a number of occasions, a series of opinions about gas and oil related issues, but I have never made those statements in an official capacity and certainly not as a supervisor," Backus said at the meeting. "I fully understand that a township supervisor needs to make judgments based upon fairness, based upon good, honest evidence and the examination of those."

Backus, along with supervisors Larry Grimm and Bryan Smith, unanimously approved the conditional use application of the Stewart facility at that meeting.

The McGugan Gas Well

What memories? The Niagara Oil Company came to Burgettstown from Buffalo, NY in 1878 and leased land in Washington County. The McGugan farm was selected for the first test well. Charles D. Robbins, President and Frederick Crocker, expert drilling contractor were bitterly disappointed when the well blew in as a gas, they wished oil. What could they do with the gas so far from any town? George Westinghouse secured the well and his friends backed him with money to build a pipe line all the way to Pittsburgh. The people were amazed at such insanity; it might be as much as 30 miles of pipe line.

But on dark nights, before the gas well was piped away, we could see and read plainly in Burgettstown from the light reflection from the clouds when the gas was lighted and reflection from the clouds did the rest. But we youngsters had a royal good time with winter picnics. Secure a big two horse sled, put plenty of straw in the bed, abundance of blankets-and away we went to Walkers Rocks in the afternoon and McGugans Gas Well by night.

Do you know? That flaming gas well fooled Mr. McGugan's apple trees! Yes it did. The drillers piped the gas out from the rig to the center of a field and ignited it. The apple trees in the orchard, responding to the warmth of the gas flame **bloomed in midwinter**. But the wintery blasts sometimes blew the other way and the trees produced no apples from the strange blossoming.

I must return to Mr. Cker. The ladies of the local church put on a festival at the earliest appearance of strawberries. Mr. Crocker attended and was served with a generous helping of strawberries, ice cream and big big cut of rich pound cake. He handed out fifty cents **and would not accept change**. That amazing generosity by this great rich man was talked about even as far as Burgettstown.

Recollections of Thomas R. Bremner
Imperial, PA-August 6, 1953

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society

Buy Oil Leases.

Coulter and Duncan of Burgettstown have purchased the Boyd oil leases covering 34 oil wells and one gas well located in Smith and Cross Creek townships. Approximately 30 of the wells are in operation.

**Coulter and Duncan purchase Oil Leases
Burgettstown Enterprise-July 3, 1935 Edition**

E.S. Bruce, 95, Recalls Early Days In Oil Fields

by Katherine Pyle

When Sidney Bruce, who will be 95 Tuesday, April 11, sees an oil well, a sort of "homesick" feeling surges through him, for most of his 95 years were spent either in the oil fields or helping to pump the "liquid gold" from the Valvoline Station on Center Avenue to Butler.

Mr. Bruce's recollections of the oil boom in the Burgetts-town area go back to the early years of this century when drilling began in the Langeloth area. The first well there was drilled on the Matthew Scott farm by the Burgettstown Oil Company headed by a group of local men—Coulter, Tope, Duncan and McKinney. The well was so successful that the Peoples Gas Company, for whom "Sid" Bruce worked at the time, sank ten more wells on farms about Langeloth. Mr. Bruce was hired to clean the wells after the "shooting" or to serve as a tool dresser. The oil excitement so fired his blood that he stayed with Peoples Gas for 12 years; then switched to the Burgettstown Oil Company for four more. By that time fewer men were being used in the field, and when he was offered a job by Valvoline to help operate the station on Center Avenue, he decided he'd better take it. That was in 1922, and until his retirement in 1950 Mr. Bruce worked night and sometimes day turns at Valvoline. He loved the engines; first, the gasoline, then the diesel and finally the electric motors, and he enjoyed being a gauger—marking the amount of oil pumped from Burgettstown to Butler. He remembers how the output climbed from 75 to 125 barrels an hour as better facilities were added and production increased.

Two incidents he recalls of the days when he was a pump operator. Once, an oil tank caught fire and was finally controlled by the Slovan Fire Department. In the flood of 1950, water rose in Raccoon Creek so fast that "Sid" had to climb on a desk as the flood swirled around him. He couldn't swim so he waited for somebody to throw him a rope, then he could wade out to the steps and up to the road.

Through the years he made many friends among the oil men: Lee Wyke, "Red" Caldwell, Raymond Reynolds, Frank Brennan, Henry McCormick, Harold Sweeney, Ray Walker, Charles Scott, Johnson Elder and Earl Myers. Today he has one caller whom he especially loves to entertain: "Skip" Gorley, whose grandfather, Henderson, was in the oil business.

"Sid's" neighbors used to say they could set their clocks according to the time he went to work; he was so punctual walking from his home on Highland Avenue to the Valvoline Station. Those who passed by the company's grassy lawns and flower beds often admired them. They were "Sid's" hobby in his spare time.

Actually the "gardening bug" was always in him. Born on a farm near Bulger, the son of the late John and Orphelia Malone Bruce, he began early to

learn the ways of the farmer. When his father died, Sid was only four years old. He was shifted about among relatives, all of whom were farmers. He knew what it was to be part of the "threshing crew" and to eat of the feasts prepared by the ladies who gathered together to cook dinner. Once in a while there was a very special dessert—ice cream!!

Later "Sid" was to try his hand at both clay and coal mining at Toronto, Ohio, and in the Verner Mine at Bulger, but those days he doesn't particularly care to remember, only that he had, at the clay mine, one gray horse which he helped to train and learned to love.

For a brief time during "Teddy" Roosevelt's administration he had a job at Westinghouse. At that time employees were paid for a while in scrip; however, "Sid's" group was paid in gold coin. Something to remember!

Along with learning his farm chores as a little boy he studied and recited his lessons at Russell and Coventry schools. Today he readily remembers the names of some of his teachers: Alice Miller, Kitty Morgan, Laura Pettibon and Mae Curry.

He was sent to Sunday School at Raccoon Presbyterian Church at Candor.

"I learned what I know about the Bible there," he told me. And his interest in the Bible has remained with him. He has had numerous friends who were ministers. Among them the Reverends Kerr, Hays, Garman, Thome, Adams and Eshbaugh.

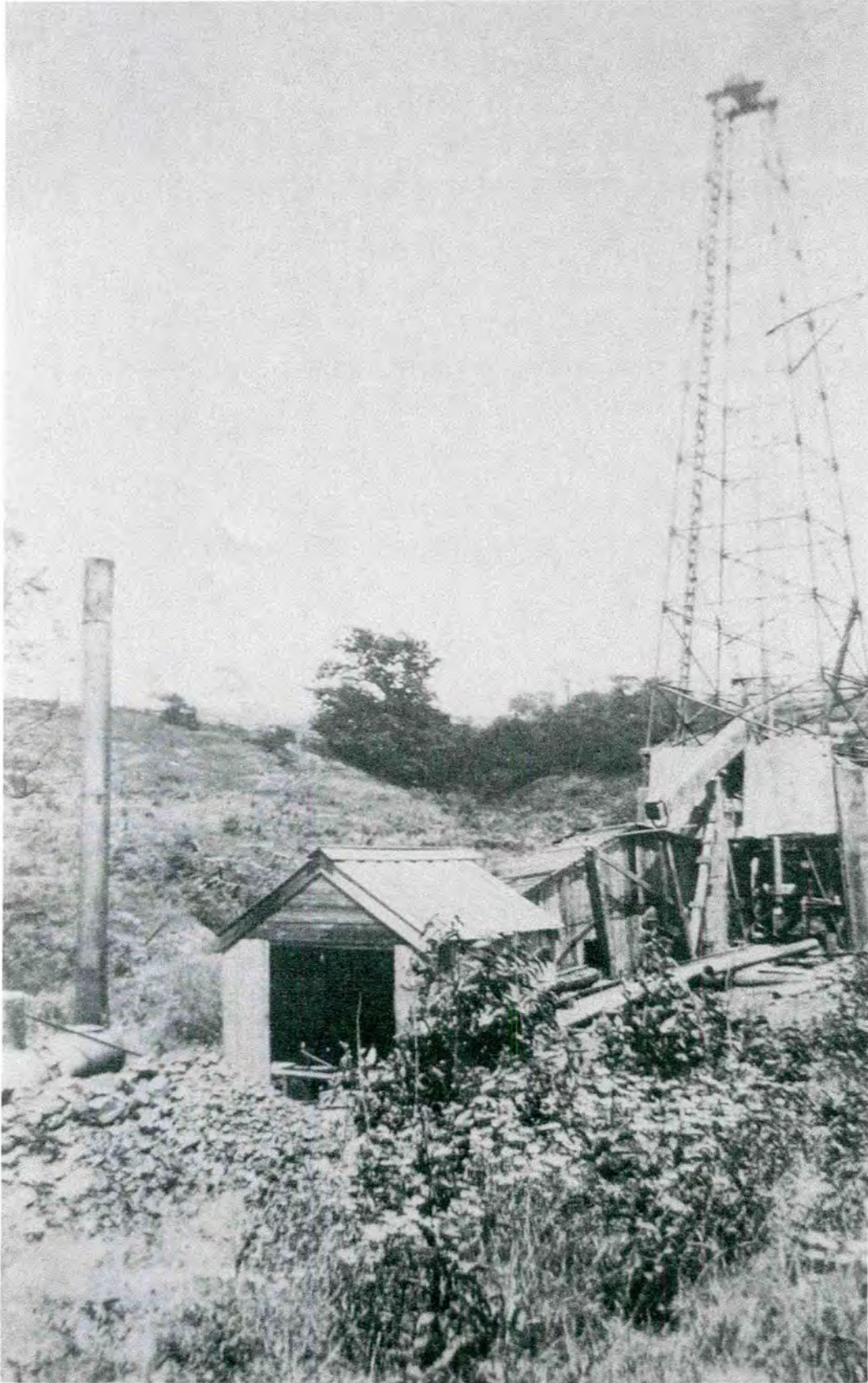
In his younger days he enjoyed galavanting about the country as young men do. He remembers the dances that were often staged on platforms, some at Robinson and at Santiago.

Candor held a particular attraction for him. It was there that the Richards family lived, and on October 11, 1911, "Sid" married Anna Elizabeth Richards, daughter of the late James and Ann Evans Richards. The couple have one daughter, Libby, with whom they now make their home on Church Street. They also have a grandson, Robert, and a great granddaughter, Nikki. Mr. Bruce had two sisters; Margaret, who married John Spence, and Sarah, wife of Tom Logan. Both are deceased. His living nephews and nieces include Warren and Dale Spence, James and Verne Logan, Mrs. Alcesta DeValkeneer, Mrs. Helen Lewis and Mrs. Dorothy Grande.

Though Mr. Bruce is proud of his Scottish ancestry, being descended from the famed Bruces of Scotland, he is even prouder of his Irish blood, and he likes to think of himself as the oldest living descendant of the Bavingtons who settled in our nearby village of that name.

When I asked Mr. Bruce to what he attributed his longevity, he merely smiled and shook his head. But I believe I know. He has been one of those who has lived graciously, never given to excess, and he has enjoyed each day that the Lord has given him.

**Early Photos
of
Burgettstown
Oil Wells**



**One of the first oil wells in the Burgettstown Field
John Duncan, Drilling Contractor**



**Oil Derrick built about 1917
The dry well drilled by Coulter and Tope.
Situated in the back of the present Scout Hut,
Highland Avenue Extension, Burgettstown**

CULLEY BROTHERS

LADIES' AND GENTS' TAILORS

CLEANING AND PRESSING

BURGETTSTOWN. - PENN'A.

Burgettstown Pa

April 22-25-

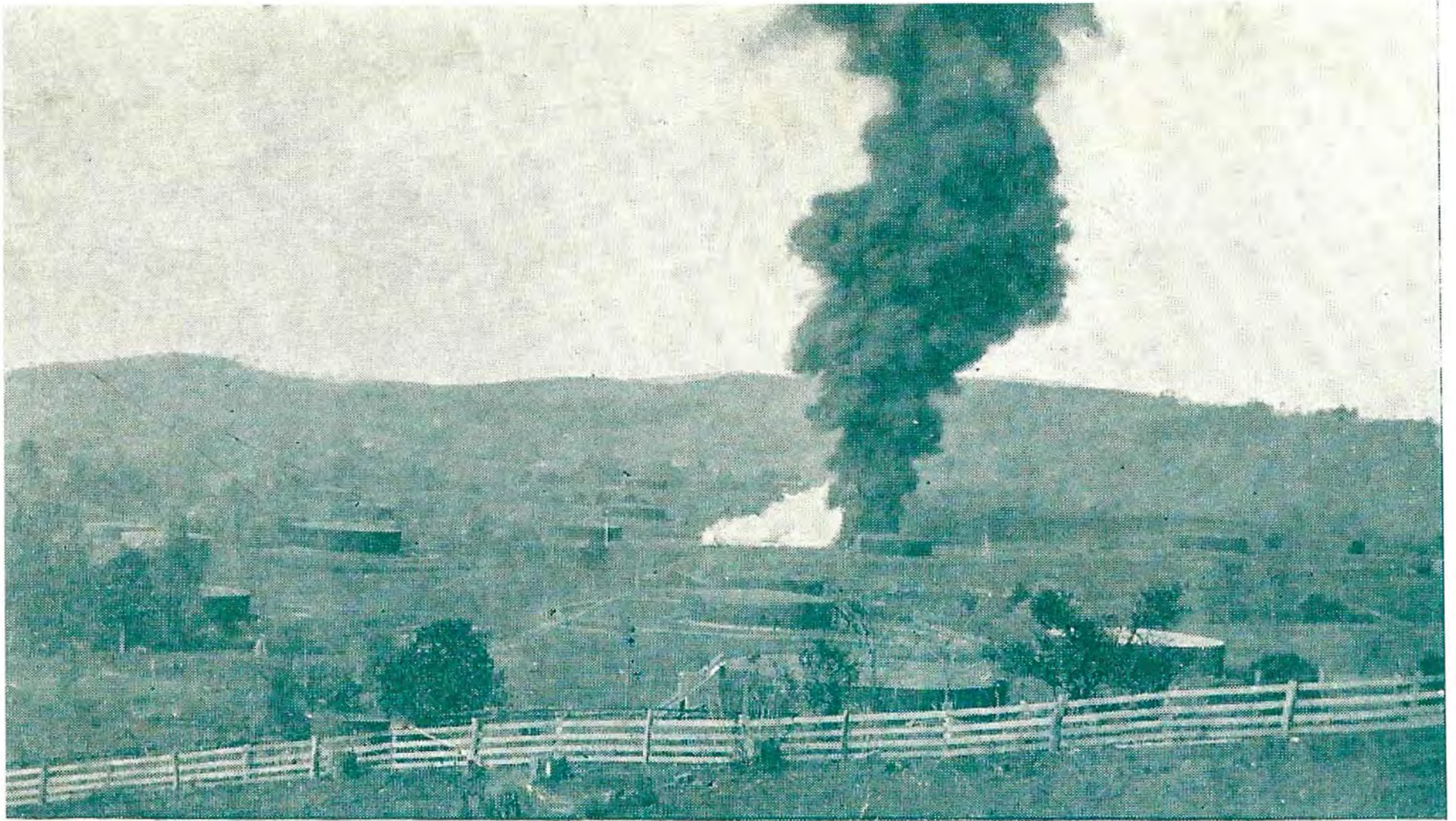
Mr Thomas Atwood

123 North 6th St

Sturbenville Ohio

Dear Sir After making a trip
to the wells on Monday after
the wind storm on Sunday
I am dropping you this note
to you to inform you that your
rig was in the path of the storm
and blew it down on the McAdams
Lease. I think there is about 50
rigs down from Burgettstown to
McDonald Resp

C L Culley



AN OIL TANK BURNING AT BURGETTSTOWN.

**1907 Post card of Burgettstown oil tank burning
Located off Center Avenue**



**William Franklin Core, Teamster
Owner of fine teams, hauled oil supplies. Circa 1906**

Freedom-Valvoline Lays Pipe Lines To Bavington and Claysville

Approximately twenty miles of five inch welded pipe is being laid by Freedom Valvoline Pipe Lines from Burgettstown to Bavington and from Burgettstown to Claysville to replace old three & four inch lines, which, for the past 15 years, have been carrying oil to Freedom refineries.

New right-aways from land owners had to be secured before operations began the first of January. The company expects to complete the project during the early part of the summer. At present about 20 men are on the job with Elmer Reed as superintendent. The work is being done by the Harford Construction Company of Emporium. Portions of the pipe lines are being laid underground where farmers expect to continue cultivating the soil; otherwise the line is laid on the surface.

**Freedom Valvoline Lays Pipe Lines to Bavington and Claysville
Burgettstown Enterprise-January 23, 1947 Edition**

Oil and Gas Boom

**History of
Cross Creek Church**

Since the oil and gas "boom" was beginning to come into the Cross Creek Country during the early years of Mr. Huston's ministry here, and since this development affected many members of this Church whose properties were tested by drilling for these minerals, we beg leave to digress from the story of the Church itself, so that we can trace this movement in the Cross Creek Country. Many wells had been drilled near Burgettstown around the turn of the century and this activity had spread into the area south of Burgettstown toward the present town of Atlasburg.

Then the movement turned toward Cross Creek Village. One of the earliest operators here was the Ventura Oil Company which drilled well No. 1 on the Abram Pry farm east of the village, testing for gas but striking in this well a good pool of oil. This was the spark which set off the oil excitement around the Village. Leases were taken up on most of the land adjacent to the Village, and keen competition among the operators and their agents existed until all the land was under lease.

Among the prominent operators, in addition to the company named

above, were: R. G. Gillespie, who had many leases in the region around where the town of Atlasburg now stands; Jennings Brothers had several leases in and near the Village; Kelly Brothers and Cooper was the firm holding the lease on the Robert C. Vance farm where at least fourteen producing wells were drilled.

Leases were taken and wells drilled even within the bounds of the Village where vacant lots were large enough to permit erection of a "rig" and where the "sand-pumpings" from the wells could be disposed of. One well was drilled on the lot of Mrs. Jane Kerr, one on the Samuel C. Cummins lot, one on the James Emler lot, and one on the Martin Reed "out-lot." Also, it was decided to have a test well drilled on the lot at the manse on the hill and money was raised by subscription for that purpose. The result was a fairly good well with oil production which realized a handsome profit for the congregation for a number of years. Also, gas in sufficient quantity to supply fuel for the manse was secured from this drilling. (Oil and gas were frequently found in the same well and where the gas pressure was sufficient, it often caused the well to "flow," thus bringing the oil to the surface. In other cases, the gas was shunted off into transmission lines and the wells were pumped to obtain the oil. Gas in these wells was in sufficient quantity to run the gas engines which pumped the wells, and also furnished fuel for many homes in the area.)

The oil and gas "boom" brought a good measure of prosperity to the Cross Creek Country. The movement also brought new individuals and new families into the community and into the Church. On most leases, houses were built by the operators as homes for the families whose men were employed in the "oil field" pumping and maintaining the wells after a good production of oil and gas was established. Near the present site of Atlasburg, a group of houses, given the ambitious name of Gillespie City, housed several of these oil field employees.

Some excitement and an occasional tragedy attended the oil boom here. The wells in this area were drilled generally to the hundred-foot sand found here at the approximate depth of 2,100 feet. Relatively speaking, these were "deep" wells, since in some neighboring areas wells were drilled only through the Salt Sand at approximately 1,400 feet. So considerable work and expense were involved in drilling a single well. First, after "locating" a well, the derrick or "rig" would be built to a

height of about sixty feet. A team of men known as Bailey and Trimmer did most of the rig building here. Then the drilling contractor took over and put his crews to work on "spudding" to start the hole. Among prominent and well-known contractors working in this field were Henry McKinney and Charles W. Tope. These were men of long experience in the drilling business. They were actually mining engineers who had received their training in the school of experience, and they were capable of handling this type of work. The actual work of drilling was done by a four-man crew, who worked in two shifts around the clock. A "shift" consisted of a "driller" who was in direct charge of the work and he was assisted by a "tool-dresser," who fired the boiler and helped the driller in any work which was involved, not the least important of which was the "tool-dressing" when the steel bits were drawn from the well, heated in a forge and "dressed" into new sharpness for continued drilling. The shifts usually changed turns at noon and midnight each day, a shift then consisting of a twelve-hour tour of duty.

The drilling machinery was powered by a steam engine, the steam produced in a large boiler, while the engine was a stationary one, which sat on a huge block of wood in the engine house near the boiler. Power was transmitted from the engine to the "band-wheel" by a heavy belt. The band-wheel had a huge crank on the end of its shaft, and this crank operated the walking beam like a big pump handle, one end of the "beam" being attached by clamps to the cable at the end of which were the tools down in the hole doing the actual digging or drilling. Another belt, usually of heavy rope, carried the power from the band-wheel to the "bull wheels" at one side of the derrick. These bull wheels formed an immense spool on which was wound the heavy cable used for drilling. They had to be operated by power when the cable and tools were pulled from the well. In addition to the big cable, there was a sand line, really a metal cable, which operated the "baler" used to bale out the sand pumpings from the well after each drilling effort. The whole setup on these drilling rigs was a fascinating one and interesting to watch, and often the drilling crew had visitors intent on watching the operations.

As the well approached the desired depth, the word went out that it would be "in" at a certain time on a certain day, so excitement and anticipation increased among those persons most interested: the owner of the well, the owner of the land on which the well was being drilled,

the contractor and, of course, the drilling crews. If a good producer was "struck," the excitement led to the location and drilling of additional wells nearby. But if the well turned out to be a "duster" (a dry hole), then deep gloom prevailed in the area for some time, and it was only after the most exacting consideration that another well would be located and drilled in the same vicinity. The first well in an untested territory was always a "gamble," but as several wells were drilled in a particular locality, certain underground patterns would begin to emerge, and then astute operators would vie with each other in guessing for the best locations of additional wells. At about the time of the drilling excitement in the Cross Creek Country, the United States Geological Survey of this same area was being made, and "logs" from many of the wells drilled in this area became valuable sources of information on underground formations here.

After a well was "brought in," if there were indications of possibly good oil production, the well was "shot" by depositing a charge of nitroglycerine at the bottom of the well, then exploding it to enlarge the "pocket" there and to fracture the strata and increase the production of oil. The "shooter" doing this work was a man greatly experienced in handling the dangerous explosives required. He had a special rig on which to haul the deadly "nitro," and when he came to a well to perform his duty, only authorized personnel were allowed near the rig. Occasionally an accident would happen and it was always a tragic one. One "shooter" was killed and he and his team and rig were blown to bits when the nitroglycerine he was handling exploded prematurely on a road north of Burgettstown. A similar accident happened in connection with shooting a well on the Dunbar brothers farm, now the Casciola farm, two miles south of the Village. One of the successful shooters who did much of this work in the Cross Creek field was Lewis Layley of McDonald.

When well No. 7 on the Johnson farm at the "head of town" in the Village was being prepared for "shooting" at the height of the oil excitement here, the charge of nitroglycerine exploded prematurely at a depth of about 300 feet in the well. This explosion shot the "casing" out of the well and this pipe went through the top of the derrick and when it came to rest, it was protruding about 30 feet beyond the top of the derrick. This spoiled chances for completing the well and also posed

a problem to the drilling crew. Finally, the casing was raised up to a greater height when the weight of it caused it to break off, but that well had to be abandoned with several hundred feet of casing pipe left in the well.

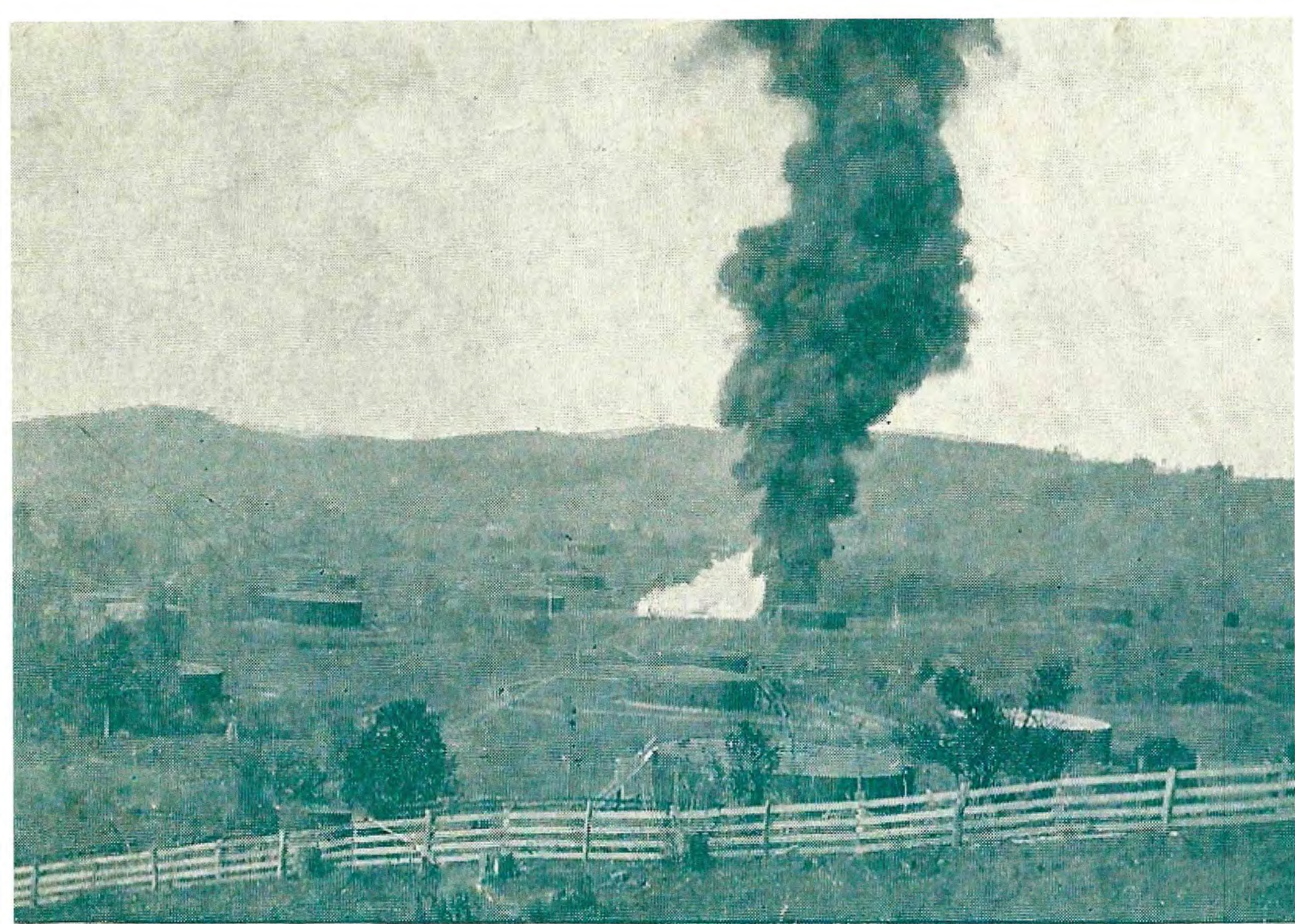
When the Abram Pry well No. 3 was being drilled on a hill about a mile east of the Village, the huge boiler exploded and flew through the air and landed several hundred yards away in a ravine. No one was injured, but John M. White, who was passing by on the public road just below the well, was badly frightened by the explosion since the "run-away" boiler passed almost directly over his head.

Bill McClave, a heavysset man and a driller in the oil field here, fell to his death from a "tubing board," a platform erected far up in a derrick and used when tubing was being installed in a well. This happened at a well on the Magill farm east of the Village. Mark Balmer, who came to Cross Creek during the progress of the oil excitement here and who was prominent in the oil and gas industry in Cross Creek for many years, was operating the engine at this well when Mr. McClave fell. In another tragic accident, Sam Carothers fell into the fly wheel of a steam engine at a well and was crushed to death. George Baker, a native of Cross Creek Village and a young man during these years, was injured by the falling of a heavy iron casting on his head and he died of the resulting injury. Also, a man by the name of Lucas was killed in an accident in the Cross Creek Oil Field.

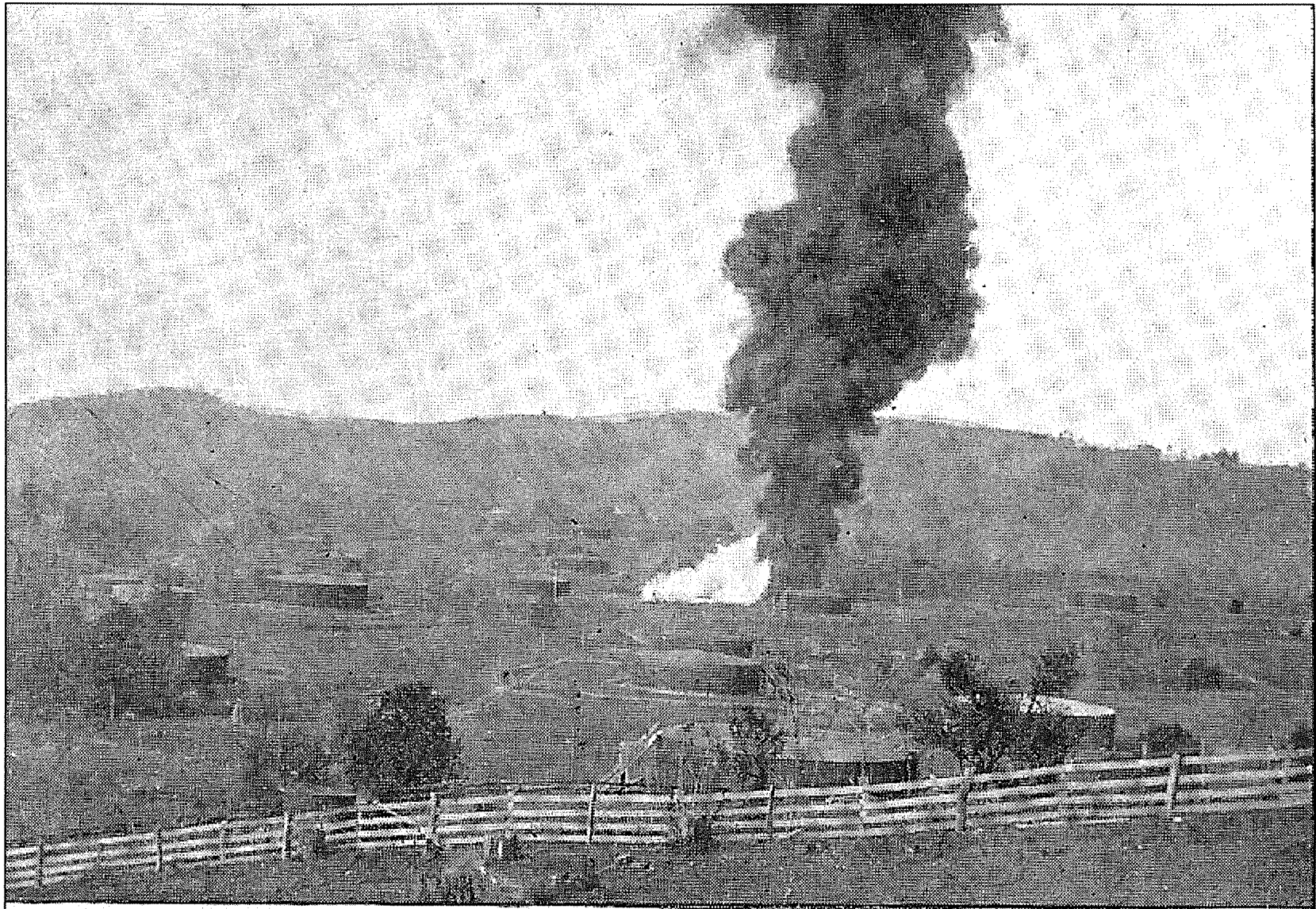
The fire which occurred in the Village in the spring of 1906 was attributed in part to the oil field activities. On this occasion, lightning struck and set fire to a tank of oil on the south side of the Village, and the burning oil flowed down through town and set fire to a number of buildings.

Some of the individuals and families who came to Cross Creek during the oil boom and who remained to take care of producing wells, and who with their families, became useful members of the Church and community included: Fred Oviatt, August F. Zaebisch, Mark T. Balmer, Clifford Black and William F. Dallmyer. Some others who worked here and eventually moved elsewhere, but who are remembered for their usefulness to the Church and community while they were here were: the Frank Bray family, the William Karnes family, the William Bell family, and no doubt others not presently recalled. In addition to these

families who came to Cross Creek from other places, the oil industry provided employment for many people native to the Cross Creek Coun-



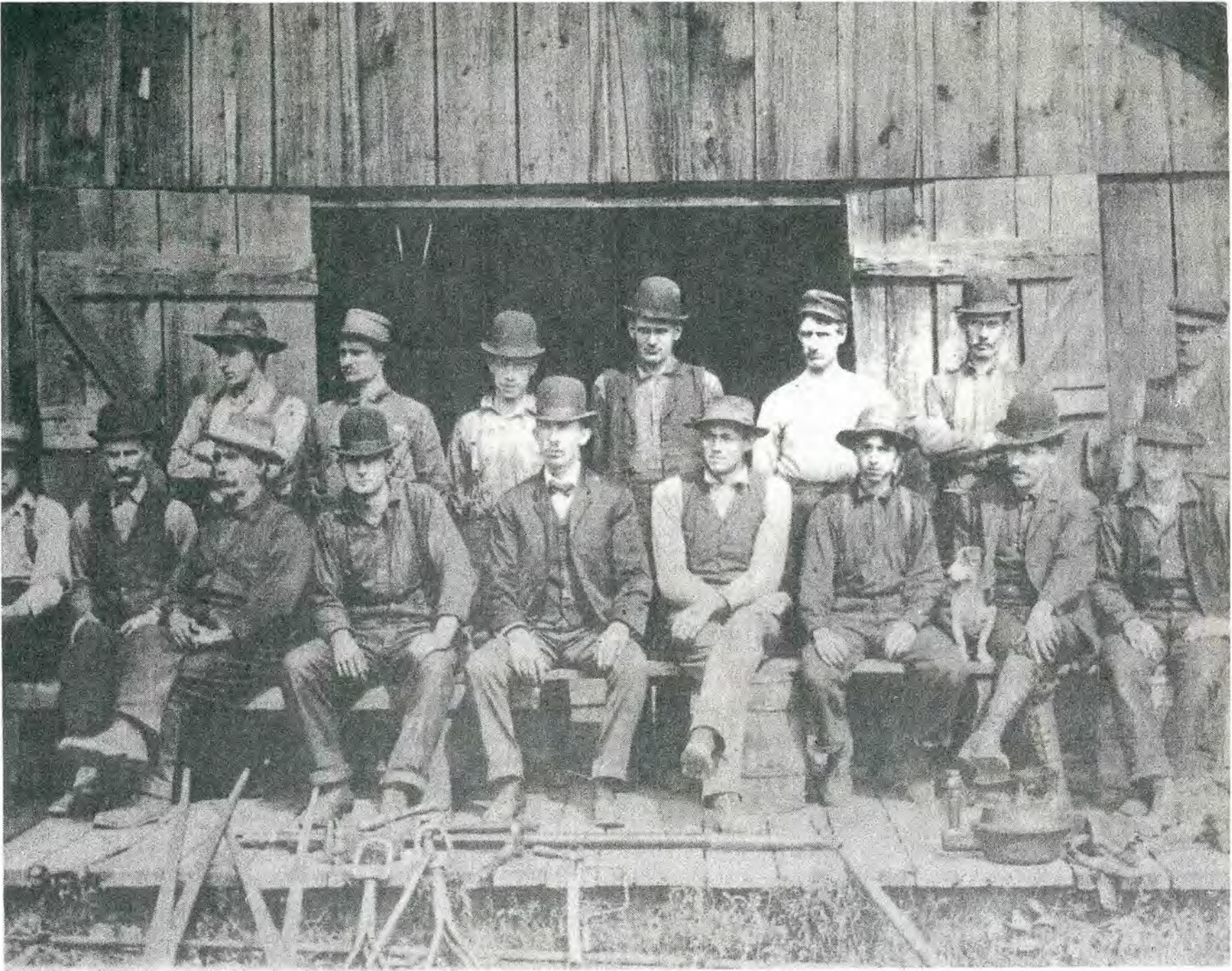
AN OIL TANK BURNING AT BURGETTSTOWN.



AN OIL TANK BURNING AT BURGETTSTOWN.

Burgettstown Oil Storage-1907

Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society



OIL WELL DRILLERS DURING McDONALD'S OIL EXCITEMENT AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

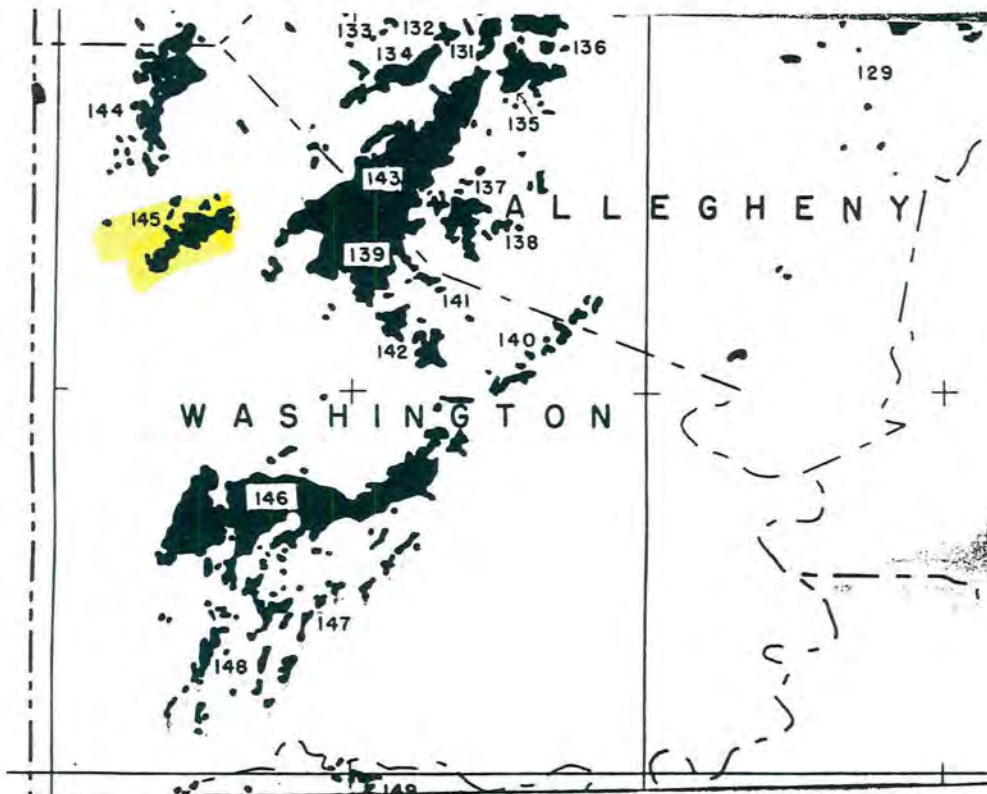
McDonald Record-Outlook, Centennial Edition-July 16, 1986

PRINCIPAL OIL FIELDS of PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Geological Survey
4th Series, Bulletin M 32
1950

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- 141. Cecil - Mawhinney
- 142. Canonsburg
- 143. McDonald
- 144. Florence
- 145. Burgettstown
- 146. Washington - Taylorstown
- 147. Point Lookout
- 148. Lagonda



Repairing Oil Lines

A section of the oil pipe line of the South West company which runs through the railroad property south of Raccoon creek through town, has been repaired in various places and the location slightly changed along the creek bottom. This line serves to carry products of the local field to eastern points.

Test Well Being Drilled at West Middletown.

Drilling was started on the Knox farm, near West Middletown, on Thursday by the Carmichael Oil company, of Wellsburg. It is understood that the well will be pushed so as to make a test of a large block of territory owned by the company. Thomas Caldwell resides on the farm where the drilling was started. The Carmichaels company owns a large acreage in Independence, Hopewell and Cross Creek townships.

Oil and Gas Well Activity.

Oil and gas drilling operations are taking on an added activity in this section due to several wells having come in which are producing in paying quantities. Last Thursday morning on the Thomas Weaver farm near the Hickman school house in Cecil township the drill penetrated six feet into the Gordon sand in a well being drilled by Amon & Kaufman of McDonald. It is stated the showing was so good that it will make one of the best producers in the section for years. About a week ago oil was found in the 100-foot sand and gas in the 30-foot. A gas well drilled on the Charles Swihart farm, on the Canonsburg-Venice road, recently had an initial production of about a half-million feet and it is said the production has since increased. The gas well, owned by the Potts interests of Canonsburg, in another well drilled recently on the Harbison farm, which is also a good producer.

Township Board Buys Oil & Gas Rights To Raccoon Property

At a brief meeting of the Smith township school directors, Wednesday evening, October 15, board members voted to purchase oil and gas rights for 4.949 acres upon which the new Raccoon school will be constructed. The purchase was made from C. C. Warton for \$200.

Bills totaling \$27,929.15 were approved for payment and the board agreed to borrow necessary money to meet the payroll.

W. P. Miller, supervising principal, was authorized to direct the building of several bus shelters in the district.

Announcement was made that classes for studying model airplanes were underway at the Slovan school house in the evening.

The board adjourned shortly after nine o'clock.

Township Board Buys Oil & Gas Rights to Raccoon Property
Burgettstown Enterprise-October 23, 1952 Edition

NITRO-GLYCERIN EXPLOSION KILLS FRANK McCULLOUGH; FORCE OF EXPLOSION IS FELT FOR MORE THAN 30 MILES



The above picture gives some idea of the havoc wrought by the explosion. The magazine stood in the lower right hand corner, though the picture does not do justice to the huge hole driven in the ground. Near the center of the picture can be seen the bodies of the two horses, their heads being doubled up under them.

One of the most terrific explosions that was ever experienced in this part of the county occurred yesterday (Tuesday) morning at about 8:45 o'clock, when a nitro-glycerin magazine, located about one-half mile north of Burgettstown, exploded. One man was killed and windows in nearly every building in Burgettstown were broken by the great shock.

The man killed was Frank McCullough, a well-known oil-well shooter for the Ohio Torpedo company. McCullough formerly lived in Burgettstown, but for some time he had been living in Steubenville, coming here by train and driving his wagon to the different oil fields.

Just how the accident occurred will never be known. McCullough came here this morning on the 8:14 train, secured a team from G. H. Wilson & Co's. livery stable and went to the magazine to load up preparatory to going to Poe, Beaver county, to shoot a well. He was well acquainted with the families passed on the way out, having been neighbors with them when living here, and waved a friendly hand to many whom he saw. The magazine was located on the Tenan farm, several hundred feet from the public road. Shortly after he was seen entering the woods which surrounded the magazine the explosion was heard. It is presumed that in the hurry of loading his wagon he dropped one of the cans, which exploded and caused the others to explode. This belief is born out by the fact that there was a double explosion.

As soon as Burgettstown people had recovered from the shock occasioned by the explosion, which shook the town as though by an earthquake, they ran to the scene.

Where the magazine had stood a pit at least ten feet deep had been dug and earth was scattered for a considerable distance throughout the woods. Trees were almost en-

tirely stripped, while many were broken off or torn up by the roots. A short distance from where the magazine had stood lay the dead bodies of the two horses, while parts of the vehicle were strewn all around. The horses were lying but a short distance apart, and strange to say, were not badly mutilated.

McCullough was evidently blown to atoms, as after an extended search only a few very small fragments of his body could be found. Searchers were unable to find any part of the body that could be recognized; no part of the head, feet, arms, or any of the larger bones. Small particles of clothing were scattered a great distance, while a good-sized portion of his jacket and a whole pocket handkerchief were picked up.

It is not known how much nitro-glycerin was in the magazine, but the Torpedo company estimates it at nearly 2,000 pounds.

When the report was first heard in Burgettstown the greatest excitement prevailed, few being able to understand the nature of it. However, those who knew the location of the magazine and had seen Mr. McCullough go out a short time before understood it only too well.

It is fortunate indeed that no one was hurt in Burgettstown, but, as stated, windows in nearly every building in town were broken. In some few cases chimneys were torn from the roof, dishes knocked from the cupboard and broken, pictures knocked from the wall, etc. The business houses were the greatest sufferers. There were few such places that did not have their glass fronts broken; in some cases even the sash was broken in, while goods were knocked from the shelves, and scattered over the floors. The First and Westminster churches suffered rather severe losses from the breaking of stained-glass windows. The total loss to buildings in the town will probably amount to \$1,000. The

greatest individual loss was sustained by the livery firm of G. H. Wilson & Co., who owned the horses which were killed.

The explosion was also heard and caused considerable damage over the county and as far away as Pittsburg and McKeesport. It is said that the explosion broke at least a thousand windows in McDonald, Oakdale, Noblestown and towns on the Panhandle. A dispatch from Washington states that it broke windows there, and word from Monongahela to THE HERALD states that the explosion was distinctly heard and felt there and in most of the river towns. Local people employed in the Union depot and the Frick building, Pittsburg, say that these buildings were shaken, while the papers say the shock was felt throughout the city and that windows were broken in North Side. Superintendent Crawford, of the Pittsburg & Erie mines, had a message from his brother at McKeesport saying that his home there had been shaken by the shock and that some Chinaware had been knocked from the plate-rail in his dining-room and broken.

Frank McCullough was about 35 years old. He was born at Bradford and had followed the oil business all his life. He spent several years in Butler county, where he married his wife, later coming to McDonald and from there to Burgettstown. He was a genial, whole-souled, gentlemanly fellow, and had many friends here and wherever he was known, all of whom sincerely mourn his untimely death. Especially do the hearts of Burgettstown people go out in sympathy to his wife and four-year-old son in their deep sorrow.

The funeral will be held at Wilkinsburg, where a brother of the deceased lives, though the time has not yet been fixed. Two sisters live in Bradford.

**Nitro-Glycerin Explosion Kills Frank McCullough;
Force of Explosion is Felt for more than 30 Miles
The Burgettstown Herald-May 11, 1910 Edition**