

In Centralia, another fire burns underground

By The Associated Press

CENTRALIA, Columbia County — A new underground coal fire, sparked by drilling, reached temperatures exceeding 1,000 degrees yesterday near this small coal town already plagued by a 20-year-old mine fire.

The second fire started Feb. 28 in a bore hole along Route 61, Centralia's main highway, about 600 feet from the town, said Department of Environmental Resources spokesman David Mashek. Heat from the friction of a drill bit ignited an anthracite coal seam.

Temperatures in the bore hole yesterday were 1,075 degrees. Six nearby holes, 10 feet apart across the highway, ranged from 60 degrees to 210 degrees, Mashek said.

The main fire moved beneath Route 61 in January, forcing its closure.

Then subsidence of old mine shafts threatened to collapse part of the road. Nicholson Construction Co. of Bridgeville, Allegheny County, drilled 81 bore holes and filled them with rock and gravel to support the road.

During the drilling, the coal seam ignited. State resource workers flushed the bore hole and temperatures dropped from 100 degrees to normal underground mine temperatures of about 50 degrees, said Centralia council President John Koshoff.

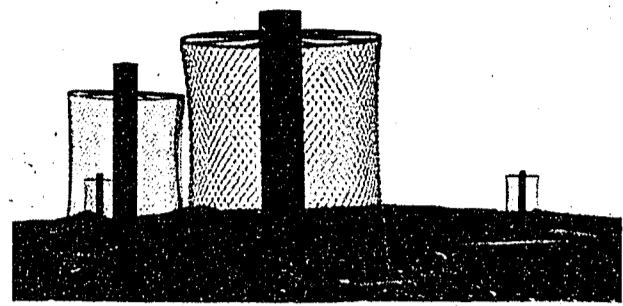
"Then a day later, it (the temperature) increased and it's been rising ever since," Koshoff said. A camera dropped into the bore hole March 17 confirmed the fire was still burning, Mashek said. The fire is about 130 to 140 feet below the road.

Koshoff said the townspeople were told of the second fire at their monthly meeting with DER officials Monday.

Nicholson Construction and DER are working on a plan to extinguish the fire, with a decision expected tomorrow, Mashek said.

The main fire, still unchecked despite four attempts and \$3.5 million, is now burning on two fronts. It threatens one-third of Centralia, a town of 1,050 residents in central Pennsylvania's hard coal region, and 84 residents of the nearby village of Byrnsville.

The main fire jumped a fire break and is moving toward Byrnsville on one front. The portion under Centralia has forced the relocation of 35 families since 1969 because of carbon monoxide fumes.



Collegian photo

Smoke from the first underground fire in Centralia is vented. Heat from a second fire reached 1,000 degrees yesterday.

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Senate budget committee lessens reductions

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Senate budget committee sheathed President Reagan's budget knife on welfare, food stamps and other key social programs yesterday as it tentatively crafted an overall spending program containing \$11.3 billion more than he wants for non-defense items.

In contrast, the same panel had slashed his defense buildup by one-half in a lopsided vote last week.

The committee left welfare, food stamps and subsidized housing programs virtually unscathed, and slowed his cutbacks in Medicare, Medicaid and other health programs considerably. And instead of a 1-year freeze on federal pay, it voted for a 6-month delay of the next boost.

Still ahead was a decision on possible tax increases, yet another area where aides said the panel was likely to override Reagan.

The committee was expected to complete work on its tax and spending blueprint late yesterday or today. Some aides cautioned, though, that a majority of the panel might reject the emerging plan entirely if the deficit became too large.

The latest decisions were all put together by committee chairman Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., and were embraced by both sides (Republicans hold a 12-10 majority).

Committee members voted to provide \$1.7 billion more for education than Reagan wanted, junking his proposed cuts in guaranteed student loans as part of the package.

Instead of Reagan's proposed \$31 billion reductions in Medicare, Medicaid

and other health programs over five years, the committee supported cuts of \$14 billion. Aides said this makes it unlikely Congress will approve Reagan's plan to increase hospital costs for many Medicare patients in exchange for a new program of catastrophic health insurance.

It rejected Reagan's proposed cuts in welfare, food stamps and subsidized housing. The president wanted to trim food stamps by \$1.1 billion, claiming that could be saved from "waste and corruption." But a Congressional Budget Office study issued earlier yesterday said such a cut, in a program now costing \$12 billion, would fall upon the nation's poorest families.

The panel voted to reject entirely Reagan's call for revision of the Civil Service retirement system.

In place of his proposal for a one-year freeze on cost-of-living increases for federal retirees, the panel endorsed a six-month delay.

Dormant accounts to go to the state

By MIKE NETHERLAND
Collegian Staff Writer

Beginning tomorrow, all banks and other financial institutions will yield to the state any of their customers' checking and savings accounts which have been dormant for seven years, said a staff aide to state Sen. Michael A. O'Pake, D-Berks County.

The banks have been instructed to comply with an amendment to a section of the 1929 tax assessment and collection act pertaining to abandoned property. The amendment redefines the period of time of financial accounts and other property dormancy from seven to 21 years.

The senator's staff aide, who declined to be identified, said the amendment was railroaded through the House and Senate during the last two days of a lame-duck session of Congress last year. The Thornburgh administration, realizing the proposed budget would run a deficit, expected to raise \$60 million with the measure, the aide said.

The aide said the measure was put to a vote so quickly before the end of the session that opposition lobbying did not have a chance.

Such an abandoned property act is in effect in nearly every state, the aide said, however, the time period varies.

The seven-year count on financial accounts would be restarted if the account is increased, decreased or a statement on its status is requested thereby redrawing the account "active."

The amendment also redefines property to include "virtually every conceivable thing you can own," the aide said. As a result, the administration has underestimated the amount of revenue the state stands to generate. By redefining property, the revenue might exceed \$120 million, the aide said.

With Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) the Revenue Department would start the seven-year count after it matures. Certificates of Deposits, however, are not specifically addressed and regulations implementing the amendment have not yet been published by the Revenue Department, the aide said.

However, Wayne Miller of Mid State Bank said no real problem exists with such accounts. Checks cashed on the interest payments on CD's quarterly or monthly activates the account and restarts the seven-year count, Miller said.

So far, Mid State has 120 dormant accounts averaging less than \$100 that it will make available to the state, Miller said.



AP Laserphotos



Lines of the times

They're becoming the rule rather than the exception — long lines of unemployed people seeking jobs.

Across the country yesterday, hundreds of the jobless waited for a chance to apply for openings.

Outside a department store in Rosemont, Calif., far left, about 900 jobseekers lined up for blocks to apply for the 120 jobs that were available.

The lines were longer in Buffalo, N.Y., though, as a crowd of 15,000 gathered to apply for 200 federally created jobs, above.

In the Buffalo line, left, four men warm their hands near a fire.

Minorities:

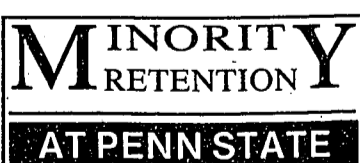
University's leaders confront retention problem

The numbers of minority faculty and students at the University were criticized by three black legislators at a state House appropriations hearing in Harrisburg earlier this year. As of Fall Term 1982, black students made up 2.5 percent of the total University student enrollment; full-time black faculty members made up 1.1 percent of the entire University faculty.

Daily Collegian reporter Anne McDonough talked to University administrators and students about minority retention. In tomorrow's issue, administrators and student leaders will address the social and cultural aspect of minority life at the University.

By ANNE McDONOUGH
Collegian Staff Writer

Although no figures are available of the number of black students who leave the University each year before graduating, black University



administrators and student leaders agree that the University must do more about its lack of success with the retention of black students.

The University could alleviate the minority student retention problem by fulfilling the needs of current black students, said Larry Young, director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. These black students, in turn, could relate their experiences to prospective students, he said.

"It's well documented that happy alumni and happy students are the best salesmen for any University," he said.

If minority students are made to feel a part of the University community and if the University

shows that it cares, they will become good ambassadors for the community, he said.

"Penn State has been victimized because it doesn't have a sufficient mass of blacks that have had a totally positive Penn State experience," he said.

The University must strive to develop these students if the retention problem is to be solved, Young said.

Students will have either a positive or indifferent reaction to college — it affects them positively or has no effect at all, he said.

Young asked whether the University is responsible for instilling values in the students. "It's an age old question which I don't know the answer to, but I do know that this is the last stop."

If black University students have a positive experience here, they will stay here, he said.

A University setting is a place for values, attitudes and assumptions

to be challenged; a situation that will not occur in the workplace, he said. The problem is that large American universities do not see this as a priority, he said.

The University must believe that it has a responsibility to the larger society and that it imparts to students the opportunity to explore other peoples, he said.

When a student leaves, the University "has sent a time bomb away from here" — a time bomb that will eventually explode, Young said.

The University cannot realistically telephone every student who leaves, he said.

Black administrators and student leaders agree that the presence of more black faculty would alleviate the retention problem.

One of the most important aspects of student satisfaction at this University is whether students are respected

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thursday

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weather

Mostly cloudy, breezy and mild today with afternoon showers or perhaps even a thundershower. The high will be 62. Cloudy and breezy tonight with occasional showers and a low of 43. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with perhaps a lingering shower and a high near 60.
—by Craig Wagner

fyi

State and federal tax returns are due tomorrow.