

Recognized and Endorsed by More Than Fifty Local Unions and Central Bodies Over Cambria County and Adjacent Mining Areas.

# UNION PRESS-COURIER

Our Shop Is Equipped to Do Job Printing of All Kinds. Nothing Too Large or Too Small. We Cater Especially to Local Union Printing.

Union Press, Established May, 1935.

Patton Courier, Established Oct., 1893.

VOL. 45, NO. 32.

9

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AREA. THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1939

723 South Fifth Ave. PATTON, PA.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER YEAR

## COAL PEACE HERE

### MINERS RETURN TO WORK MONDAY OVER CAMBRIA

**Eighteen to Twenty Thousand Answer Whistles This Week, As New Contract Is Signed.**

Cambria County's major industry resumed on Monday of this week with eighteen thousand miners returning to work in accordance with the new "union shop" agreement signed on Saturday between operators and the United Mine Workers of America, ending a period of idleness which started on the first day of April.

Joining Cambria county's miners in their trek to the pits were thousands in other counties of the rich bituminous fields. James Mark, president of District No. 2 of the United Mine Workers of America, an area embraced by eighteen Central Pennsylvania counties, said that about fifty thousand men under his jurisdiction had been ordered and have reported for work.

In a number on instances crews entered the mines on Sunday midnight. For the most part the rest started with the day shift on Monday, while a few of the operations didn't get opened until Tuesday morning. Joy reigned in the company towns on Sunday when secretaries of the UMWA locals read telegrams of instructions from district headquarters. "Work notices" were posted at tipples and in the vicinity of company stores and in a number of instances the "work" whistle or siren was sounded on Sunday—signal of work on Monday.

With the pumping crews and other maintenance men having continued at work throughout the shutdown, mines throughout the district had been held in readiness for resumption of operations. With ample supplies of railroad cars on mine sidings, shipping mines began the outward influx of the fuel to all points in the east on Monday night.

District President Mark announced Sunday last that with the signing of the agreement notices were forwarded to all UMW locals ordering union miners to return to work, with the exception of miners employed at captive mines where miners will not work until the company signs or agrees to sign the commercial agreement, that is, the same agreement entered into between the UMWA and operators of commercial mines.

In fact, aside from the captive mines practically every large operation in the county resumed operations on Monday and the same good, old cooperation between the United Mine Workers of America and the operators in this section of the country again prevails—with the hope of both being a demand for coal—and more coal.

### STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR DEFENDS THE COMPENSATION ACT

Philadelphia. — The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor was enlisted last week in a fight against what President James L. McDevitt said were attempts to discard the 1937 Workmen's Compensation Act.

McDevitt told delegates to the Federation's annual convention the act, "for the first time in our history made occupational diseases compensable—and raised Pennsylvania form one of the most backward states to a position of leadership in compensation legislation."

Since then, he said, "reactionary employers who failed to defeat the form by pressure turned to the courts. Only recently we saved it from being entirely invalidated by the Supreme Court." The same group, he added, has renewed the fight in the legislature.

"We will continue to fight to keep the compensation act on the books as it is," McDevitt said.

Parts of the act, passed by the Democratic administration of former Governor Earle, recently were declared unconstitutional by the state supreme court.

### BISHOP WILL ORDAIN SEMINARY STUDENTS AT LORETTO COLLEGE

Four members of the Loretto community of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis will be ordained to the priesthood today, Ascension Thursday, in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, by the Most Reverend Bishop Richard T. Guilfoyle.

The seminarians of St. Francis College who will be elevated to the priesthood are: Rev. Fraters Eugene Estill, TOR, East St. Louis, Ill.; Francis King, TOR, Philadelphia; Mark Santucci, TOR, Palmer, Mass., and Daniel Egan, TOR, West Roxbury, Mass.

All will celebrate their first mass next Sunday in their home parishes.

### HOFFMAN COMPANY'S DRIVERS ARE SIGNED WITH CIO TRUCKERS

Some weeks ago at the solicitation of the Clerks' Union, the Hoffman Ice Cream Company was published on an "unfair" list, because drivers of the company were not organized. The firm is now listed as "fair." Hoffman drivers, according to Dan Morarity, United Mine Workers organizer, are now affiliated with the U. M. W. of A. Truckers of Barnesboro, the transportation unit of the CIO in Northern Cambria county.

### 3 MILLION WPA JOBS URGED BY JOHN L. LEWIS

**CIO President Demands Wages High Enough to Prevent Reduction in Union Standards.**

Washington.—John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, on Sunday night demanded that Congress provide 3,000,000 W. P. A. jobs during the coming fiscal year at wages sufficient to prevent reduction in union standards.

Opening a campaign before the House appropriations committee which is investigating WPA and which is soon to consider the 1940 relief fund, Lewis wrote chairman Edward Taylor that business recovery cannot be effected if relief funds are slashed. He submitted this five point program:

- 1—WPA jobs for all unemployed, able and willing to work without the "degrading means test."
- 2—Recognition of the right of WPA workers to organize.
- 3—WPA jobs fitted to the needs and skill of unemployed workers.
- 4—All projects to be socially useful and productive.
- 5—Wages sufficient to maintain an American standard of living and to prevent reduction in union standards.

"These are minimum conditions," Lewis wrote. "Any attempt to establish an effective program fully to meet the need of unemployed in this country would find itself speaking in terms of vaster figures. We ask for 3,000,000 jobs not as a figure to be reduced by bargaining by those who would destroy WPA, but as a figure based upon the real floor of unemployment."

In writing Taylor, Lewis was carrying out the program of "jobs for all," adopted at the first CIO convention in Pittsburgh, Pa., last year. He said he believed the rival American Federation of Labor membership agreed with his recommendations and that they were supported by the unemployed.

"There are strong indications of a situation basically conducive to recovery," the letter said. "But I am convinced that such recovery will not come if federal investment in the way of WPA expenditures is seriously cut at the present time."

Lewis' business forecast differed sharply from economic views presented to the appropriations committee last week by the mayors of a number of America's cities. They said in union that business today is merely "holding its own" and professed to see no immediate prospect of prosperity. It was on this note that they joined with Lewis in protesting any action which would transfer a greater portion of the relief load from the federal government to the states and cities.

The CIO chief said he conceded that there has been no substantial increase in employment, but he said that seasonal gains may be expected in automobile, glass, steel and rubber industries. Not only does the reduction of WPA employment at this time threaten economic reversals, but it also carries with it "political dangers," Lewis warned.

"A people bred in the traditions of the American people will not forever endure the hopelessness of unemployment, relieved only by periodic threats of utter privation," he said. "To believe that they will much longer suffer this is to believe that they easily forget the traditions of our forefathers."

Lewis' warning about the effect of curbing relief spending was substantiated in part by deputy WPA administrator Howard O. Hunter in an address over the Columbia Broadcasting System. He said that private industry cannot for many years absorb all of the unemployment and that curtailment of federal spending "will only increase the number of unemployed."

Although 1,500 elephants were killed in Uganda, British East Africa, last year, numerous elephants still worry small settlements and damage crops.

## NO SHOOTING CRACKER NOISE ON THE FOURTH

**But, Then, You Can Celebrate the Holiday By "Banging" on A Toy Cap Pistol.**

Harrisburg.—With a few strokes of a pen, Governor James Monday prohibited the general sale and use of fireworks in Pennsylvania.

The Governor signed a bill banning all fire works in the state except toy caps and pistols and public displays under strict supervision. The law became effective immediately.

The Governor's signature to the bill ended a campaign for anti-fireworks legislation which began in the 1938 special session. No action was taken then and the fight was renewed at the opening of the present session.

Backers of the long sought measure predicted both a saving of lives and money through the law. Eight persons lost their lives and hundreds were injured in the state last Independence Day.

The act gives local authorities power to grant permits for fireworks displays. A \$500 bond must be posted and local officials must be satisfied a competent operator will be in charge.

State troopers, or any sheriff, police officer or constable may seize all fireworks offered for sale at retail in violation of the law.

A penalty of fines up to \$100 or 90 days' imprisonment is provided.

## NO LET-UP ON THE TRUCKERS SINCE MONDAY BY UMW

**Miners Pledge to Make It A Finish Battle With A. F. L. Haulers Out of Johnstown.**

Signing of wage-hour contracts by coal operators and United Mine Workers brought no change in the status in Johnstown of the "war" between the Union miners and Truck Drivers' Local 110 (AFL).

For some time the union miners have "turned back" trucks driven into coal towns by members of Local 110, giving as the reason that the truckers' body had "aided and abetted" the efforts of the Progressive Miners Union to enter the Central Pennsylvania coal fields.

With the United Mine Workers having obtained the "union shop" contract with Appalachian operators making more difficult than ever before the entry of the "Progressives" it was questioned by Johnstown newspapers whether the United Mine Workers would pursue their activities against Drivers Union 110.

Fred D. Thomas, veteran UMW organizer and spokesman at Johnstown explained the present status in this way:

"With the return to work of union miners we will be in a better position to 'turn back' trucks driven by members of Local 110 than ever before. United Mine Workers soon will be drawing pay checks again and we will be in a position to tell store owners not to accept deliveries by drivers affiliated with the union of which H. D. Lehman is president.

"The fight has just started against the Lehman union. Union miners in company towns will have nothing to do with stores accepting deliveries from Johnstown stores in trucks manned by members of Local 110."

### TWO MEN INJURED IN NORTH COUNTY MINES ON FIRST DAY OF WORK

Two coal miners were admitted to the Spangler hospital on Monday suffering of injuries sustained while at work in north county pits.

When a wire cable on a cutting machine slipped, Richard Lawrence, 38, of Bakerton, suffered a severe laceration of the left thumb. Lawrence was at work in No. 6 mine of the Sterling Coal Company at Bakerton at the time of the accident.

Vincent Barett, 41, Spangler, sustained a severe laceration of the scalp on Monday afternoon when he was struck by an electric drill. He was working in Mine No. 15 of the Barnes and Tucker Coal Company at Barnesboro and was operating the drill when it slipped.

### Married 35 Years.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Buck of Carrolltown, recently observed their 35th wedding anniversary. A number of relatives tendered them a surprise party in honor of the anniversary.

Brazil has a giant waterfall far larger than Niagara.

## LABOR COUNCIL INDORSES STORE HALF-HOLIDAYS

**North County Union Representatives Urge Active Support of Thursday Closings.**

The Northern Cambria Industrial Union Council, the central body representing organized labor, at a recent meeting held at Revloc, passed the following resolution, which the letter below explains:

May 12, 1939.

Northern Cambria Business Men's Association, Hastings, Pa.

Gentlemen: The Northern Cambria Industrial Union Council, at a meeting held at Revloc, on May 10th, voted approval of the action of the Northern Cambria Business Men's Association in closing their stores during the summer months.

The delegates there are to report their action to each local union in the north of the county, and to patronize the stores that go along with this movement.

The unions represented at the meeting were: Revloc, Colver, Vintondale, Twin Rocks, Hastings, Emeigh, Patton, St. Benedict, Moss Creek, Nanty-Glo, Colver Clerks' Union, Barnesboro Clerks' Union and the Barnesboro Truckers Union.

Northern Cambria Industrial Union, Ira Krug, Secretary.

## WAYNE KING TO COME TO SUNSET NIGHT OF MAY 26

**Finest Dance Band Will Play Only Engagement in Pennsylvania Friday, Next Week.**

America's finest dance orchestra, Wayne King, will play his only engagement in Pennsylvania at Sunset, the world's most unique ball room, on Friday, May 26th. The most recent orchestra popularity poll, conducted by Radio Guide, places Wayne's first among the dance bands of America. While Wayne is generally conceded to be America's waltz king, by no means does he feature any more waltzes than the average orchestra while playing dance engagements. His programs are arranged to please the most ardent swing fan as well as the most confirmed lover of sweet music.

His own composition, "Annabelle" is one of Wayne's most requested tunes. "Goofus," "Josephine" and many other dance numbers written by him a few years ago are still featured by leading orchestras throughout the nation and definitely place him among the country's leading dance music composers.

On Decoration Day, Thursday, May 30th, Henry Busse famous for his "Hot



WAYNE KING

Lips', trumpet solo, which is also his theme song, will play his first engagement at Sunset in two years. Featured with Busse and his orchestra are lovely ViMele, sweet swing singer; Ducky Young, comic vocalist; Dick Wharton, romantic baritone and the "Three Strikes", vocal trio specializing in shuffle tunes. Henry Busse comes direct to Sunset from a most successful theatre tour.

The Sunset stage is ideally adapted to show to great advantage bands of the above type, giving entertainers plenty of room in which to perform

## MINE IS IN FLAMES

**ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT DAMAGED BY FIRE IN PATTON SUB-STATION**

Patton and vicinity were without electric current for more than two hours last Thursday afternoon when fire damaged equipment in the substation of the Pennsylvania Edison Company.

Fire, believed to have been caused by a short circuit in an electric line, broke out in the substation about noon. The Patton Volunteer Fire Company quickly extinguished the blaze.

A crew of electricians was dispatched to the scene and shortly after 2:30 p. m. electric current was restored to the community. Electric officials estimated damage at about \$300. Majority of the damage was to huge transformers located outside the substation it was reported.

## ASSEMBLY PLANS TO TRIM SAILS AND GO HOME MAY 27

**Which Likely Also Means That There Will Have to Be Special Session Before End of 1939.**

Leaders of the Pennsylvania Legislature, a rather unfriendly one toward labor, decided Tuesday to concentrate on four major projects, shelve the rest of the measures, and adjourn the 1939 session on May 27. All of which will leave so much undone that there will likely have to be a special session before the year is out. Singled out for action in the final days were:

1. Relief revision as proposed by the Van Allsburg bill, passed by the House. It is now in a sub committee of the senate for deletion of certain objectionable features. One senator said it would be "killed" if brought up for a vote today. The bill would remove 5,000 unemployment relief workers from civil service.

2. Workmen's compensation. Five bills revising the schedule of payments to injured employees have been approved by the House and are before a Senate Committee. Labor leaders are objecting to any change in the act of 1937, and plan to present their views at a second public hearing on Thursday of this week.

3. Liquor control. The house has sent three bills to the senate to set up local licensing boards, reduce the number of hotel licenses, mark up the license fees and increase the sizes of the "dry" zones around churches and schools.

4. Appropriations. Many of the sums asked by the Governor to operate the state government in the next two years have been sanctioned by the House and sent to the senate. The topic is the last major issue before the House.

Republicans are one vote short of the 26 needed to assure passage of legislation affecting these principal subjects. At times, two Democrats, William J. Eroe and Joseph P. Dando—have voted with them, however.

The Democratic floor leader, Harry Shapiro, said his colleagues are against the Van Allsburg relief plan and the liquor revision. By their debate in the House, Democrats, too, showed unqualified objection to the new workmen's compensation schedule. Shapiro asserted in the senate that early adjournment of the session without legislation to reduce taxes "is nothing short of criminal." He read from a campaign speech of Governor James and said: "G. O. P. still stands for Grand Old Promises. The G. O. P. still makes promises and still breaks them."

### GALLITZIN HUNTERS BUILD PHEASANT PEN

A pen large enough to house 100 ringneck pheasants has been constructed by the Gallitzin Sportsmen's Association. The pen was built on the property of Sheridan Clossin.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, in the near future will send about 100 ringneck pheasants to the sportsmen. Members of the association will feed and care for the birds until next September or October when they will be liberated in various sections of the north of Cambria county.

Sportsmen believe the shipment will be received about June 1st. The pen is 48 feet square.

and affording complete visibility from any point in the ball room.

On Friday, May 19th, Tommy Tucker and his great band will be the attraction at Sunset. The admission to the Wayne King dance will be \$1.25 per person; Henry Busse, \$1.10 per person, and Tommy Tucker, 55 cents per person. Tax is included in all admission prices.

## ROAD IN PATTON CAVES IN WHEN COAL VEIN BURNS

**Fire in Abandoned Workings at Flannigan Road Threatens the Buildings Nearby.**

Undermined by a burning coal vein an abandoned mine of the Patton Clay Manufacturing Company, a section of the Patton-Flannigan road caved in on Sunday.

A section of the road about four feet square caved in a short distance from the Clay Works plant, and forced the road to be closed to traffic.

During the intervening period flames and smoke have been pouring at intervals from the large crevice. A temporary wooden fence has been built about the hazard, and the fence caught fire on Monday night. Coal officials said indications are that the coal in the abandoned mine has been ignited since early in 1936. The eruption of Sunday, however, was the first in which it created a menace to the surface.

On February 1, 1936, nineteen persons living in the vicinity of the abandoned mine were overcome by carbon dioxide gas, reported to have seeped from the abandoned workings. Veteran miners at the time expressed the opinion that the gas originated from the burning coal vein.

Persons affected by the poisonous fumes lived in four houses near the clay works and since that time these houses have been abandoned.

Officials of the Patton Volunteer Fire Company have requested Harrisburg to have a state fire marshal inspect the blazing area.

Fire company officials estimated the pit left by the caving is approximately 35 feet deep and in looking into the hole the flaming coal and white hot molten rock can be seen. The night effect of the spectacle is similar to that of a miniature volcano.

The mine was abandoned about six years ago by the Clay Manufacturing company after thousands of tons of fire clay had been removed. The coal from the C prime vein was taken out between 35 and 40 years ago.

The present fire, it is claimed, is confined to a layer of bone left in the workings when the coal was removed. The bony strip is said to be anywhere from six to ten inches in thickness.

It is understood that the Clay company did not remove the coal from the workings and that only clay was taken out approximately 15 to 20 feet under the abandoned mine tunnels. In order to remove the clay a shaft was sunk about 65 feet and miners worked under the abandoned coal operations.

The large plant of the Clay Company is not without danger by the burning top coal. It can be possible that the fire will burn under the plant and possibly cause another caving on land occupied by the buildings and yards.

Patton miners and officials really are unable to give any feasible reason as to how the fire may have started, and the only contention seems to be that spontaneous combustion was the cause. The blaze is being fanned from many openings and air vents into the abandoned mines.

Fire company officials and miners are unable to suggest any way in which the blaze can be combated. It would practically be impossible to extinguish the fire burning from 30 to 50 feet under the ground.

State Senator John Haluska has been seeking to obtain state assistance in combatting the fire. It is understood that state authorities are now pondering the problem.

Local miners, who know the lay of the underground tunnels, point out that the vein dips at places to 80 feet below the surface and in all probability the fire will follow the vein.

Attracted by the flames and smoke shooting into the air, hundreds of spectators have been attracted to the scene at night.

Officials of the Patton Clay Manufacturing Company have given permission to route a detour over the company's land, in order to afford the residents of Flannigan an inlet to Patton.

Protection for an invention can be obtained in more than 200 countries.

### SPEED COSTS 120

**RIGHT TO DRIVE** privileges of 120 motorists have been withdrawn for 90 days for violating the fifty mile speed limit, the Department of Revenue reported today.

The suspensions during the week ending May 8 applied to 49 Pennsylvania operators and 71 from outside the state.