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MINERS TO STRIKE UNLESS THEY HAVE SIGNED CONTRACT

President, James Mark Accuses Operators of Hiding Behind Labor Board's Skirts.

Threats of work stoppages in the bituminous coal mines in April if a contract is not signed by March 31st were made in wage conference sessions during the week in New York City, where operators and miners are endeavoring to iron out their differences.

Addressing the joint Appalachian wage conference, last Friday, James Mark, of DuBois, president of District No. 2, United Mine Workers of America, charged operators with "hiding behind the skirts of the War Labor Board," and declared:

"No matter what the labor board says or does, if the men don't get a contract by March 31st, they won't go into the mines April 1st. We're out to get a substantial wage increase and we're going to get it, no matter what the consequences are."

Other district spokesmen spoke in similar vein before the northern operators, who Friday said "no" to all the major contract demands made by U. M. W. President John L. Lewis, which included a \$2-a-day basic wage increase for all miners in the two bituminous areas. The present pact expires March 31st.

Meantime, at a separate meeting, union men voted down a proposal by the Southern Coal Producers' Association to shelve the Southern Appalachian joint wage conference until 3 months after the war ends. John Saxton, president of District No. 28, declared that the suggestion was ridiculous.

At the meeting of the northern group, John P. Busarello, District 2 president, declared: "We want \$2 (more) a day and we won't take less. The demands are more than reasonable and the United Mine Workers expect to get them." He said the operators should "be as patriotic as the United Mine Workers and give them what is due them," and added, "If you (operators) don't, we'll take it."

John Seddon, District 5 spokesman, said if raises were not granted, many miners would desert the mines for industries offering better pay. "From your refusal of our demands could come results drastic and unpredictable," he asserted.

President Lewis in three hour speech last week, demanded, among other things, the \$2 basic increase, a bottom daily wage of \$8 for all bituminous field workers, double time for Sunday work and unionization of about 50,000 foremen and assistant foremen, heretofore excluded. The present basic inside day rate for miners is \$7, but some workers, Lewis said, were paid less.

The northern operators refused the major demands, arguing that conditions in the industry did not warrant meeting them. Charles O'Neill, northern spokesman, said the demands would cost about \$750,000,000 for 1943. Union men said the cost would be about \$240,000,000 for 1943 on tonnage expected by the government.

ARE RATION POINTS TO BE BOOSTED?

Washington. — The Sunday Star says OPA is considering a 33 per cent increase next month in the ration points allotted for purchase of canned and other processed foods. This would raise to 64 the present 48 point margin.

Final decision will be made after last minute reports on sales of these foods are received from various parts of the country March 20th, the paper says, adding, "If the sale of canned goods proceeds at its present rather slow pace, the ration will be increased."

Officials declined to confirm the report but one remarked that the point value of certain foods might be increased if the total point allotment for April is raised.

THREE FROM DIOCESE ENTER NOVICESHIP

Three young women of the Altoona diocese have been received into the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in Dallas, Pa. The ceremonies were conducted in the Chapel, Villa Saint Teresa. They are Marie Matilda Nagle, St. Augustine; Mary Alice Brophy, Altoona; and Rita Biter, Lorraine. The girls entered the novitiate on September 8, 1942, and having completed six months' postulantcy, are entering their noviceship. Mary Alice Brophy and Rita Biter are graduates of Mt. Aloysius Junior College. Marie Nagle is a daughter of Ferd Nagle. Nelly Neilson, also a graduate of Mt. Aloysius Academy, received the religious garb the same day.

WALTER CIHAN IS MISSING IN ACTION

Pvt. Walter Cihan, aged 29 years, of this place, has been missing in action since February 17th in North Africa, according to a War Department message received by his father, Peter Cihan. The soldier served with the Army Engineer Corps.

Pvt. Cihan entered the armed forces March 8, 1942, and was shipped overseas last fall. He was a communicant of St. Mary's Church, Patton. A brother, Henry, is stationed with the Army in New York and another brother, Edward, is a senior student in the Patton high school. The soldier also has several sisters.

Cpl. Lyle Kline, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Kline of Cambria Township, is also reported missing in North Africa since February 17th.

UMWA IS SIGNING UP MINE OFFICIALS OVER THIS DISTRICT

Supervisory Workers Expected to Be Absorbed Into Rank and File By First of April.

While operator and union talks in New York City thus far have failed to center on the Mine Officials Union, district UMWA locals are completing the task of signing up all the mine supervisory workers.

Under the plan advanced by the Union, all mine foremen, assistants, dock bosses, night bosses, fire bosses and other employees previously exempted from membership will be admitted into the rank and file of the United Mine Workers on April 1st.

District local officers are presenting application blanks to all supervisory workers and reports from unions indicate that a large percentage of mine officials already have returned signed applications.

Whether or not a contract for the bituminous coal industry is consummated, mines will remain idle April 1st, to give miners opportunity to observe the traditional John Mitchell Day. The day will likely serve as an occasion for inducting the new members into the local unions at meetings.

In a letter forwarded to all locals by the international office, unions were advised to file applications of each supervisor until the first day of next month when they may be acted upon at a special meeting of the local. District 2 membership roll will be swelled by approximately 5,000 men if the officials union is adopted.

LARGE CLASS INITIATED BY FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, ON SUNDAY

A large crowd was in attendance at a class initiation which was held in the Lodge Rooms of Patton Aerie No. 1244, F. O. E., on Sunday afternoon. 30 new members were taken into the order at the initiatory ceremonies, which now makes a total membership of 963 in the Patton Aerie. This is one of the largest memberships of any lodge in the county.

The ceremonies were in charge of the Altoona Aerie Degree Team and the Drill team of the Altoona Aerie were also guests of the Patton Aerie and put on a colorful exhibition drill.

Principal speaker at the event was Attorney Samuel R. DiFrancesco, a member of the Johnstown Aerie, who gave a very interesting address on the State of The Nation.

Charles A. Saunders, an officer of the State Aerie also gave brief interesting remarks.

After the business session a light lunch was served. In the evening a dance was held for members and their ladies, which was largely attended.

It is reported by Secretary Mark Brown that since June 1, 1942 to the present date 126 new members have been taken into the organization.

SURVEY OF WAGES IN COUNTY MADE

Workers employed in productive industries of Cambria county during 1941 earned a total of \$84,063,600 in wages it was revealed in a survey made public the other day by the Department of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg.

A total of 38,240 men and 1,992 women were employed in 243 business establishments of the county during the year with the men earning \$62,623,600 and the women earning \$21,440,000.

EBENSBURG BARN DESTROYED BY FIRE

Fire late Tuesday night destroyed a small barn on the property of Ralph McCoy of Ebensburg. Ebensburg firemen battled the blaze for nearly an hour, but were unable to save the frame structure. However, they played hundreds of gallons of water on the McCoy home, saving it.

BARNESBORO TOPS COUNTY IN TOTAL WAR BOND SALES

Over Thirty-two Thousand Dollars Subscribed; Patton Is More Than Ten Thousand

Barnesboro led all the other communities in Cambria County, outside of Johnstown, in the total sales of E Series War Savings Bonds during February, according to the monthly report of Albert W. Walters, county chairman of the War Savings Staff.

Sales of Bonds in the Northern Cambria Community last month, the report shows, totaled \$32,211. In January, Barnesboro also led the area with sales totalling \$33,224.

Portage ranked second last month with sales totalling \$28,630, while Nanty-Glo was third with \$21,234, and Ebensburg was fourth with \$20,960; South Fork, with \$20,061, ranking fifth.

Other totals in various parts of the county were: Bakerton, \$18; Carrolltown, \$5,698; Colver, \$9,130; Coupon, \$580; Cresson, \$11,361; Elmora, \$1,705; Gallitzin, \$9,065; Hastings, \$11,118; Loretto, \$74; Patton, \$10,948; Revloc, \$10,742; St. Benedict, \$374; Spangler, \$9,036; Vintondale, \$9,262.

Cambria county may well be proud of its bond-buying record, and there must be no let-down.

GASOLINE RATION FOR 'A' BOOKS IS SLASHED TO HALF PRESENT RATE

Ban On Pleasure Driving Is Lifted But There Won't Be Much Fuel Available to Do It

Action of the Office of Price Administration in slicing the basic "A" ration of gasoline to half the present rate described by E. A. Wagner, president of the Cambria Co. Retail Gasoline Dealers Association, as "another tough blow." The cut in the "A" coupon will result in a 25 per cent reduction in business at gasoline stations, and many stations in the county may be forced to close.

The ration after Monday on "A" books was cut to one and one-half gallons in Eastern states, beginning next Monday. But the motorist can use that gas as he pleases. The coupons of Period coupons will have to last four months instead of two months, but will still be good for three gallons per coupon.

Cutting of the allowed mileage in the east was said to be resulting in a wholesale disposal of cars in this district. Agencies have been purchasing cars and transferring them to areas not hit by the gasoline ban.

The present "A" ration book gives one 24 gallons of gas for a two month period, based on the use of eight coupons, valued at three gallons each. The new A-5 coupons valid on Monday will have to last for a four months' period.

GET OUT YOUR COFFEE COUPON, EASTER CARD AND SPRING BONNET

March 21st is a red letter day in more ways than one this year. Not only is it Sunday and the first day of spring, but it also is the deadline for redeeming Coupon No. 35 for that pound of coffee and it's the last day for getting those Easter cards in the mails for those boys overseas.

While Easter comes late this year—April 25—postal authorities believe it's not too early to start thinking about Easter if you are planning a holiday note to the men of the armed forces now serving on foreign soil.

If you get your Easter cards or letters in the mail before March 21st every effort will be made to effect a delivery in time for Easter Sunday, providing you mail promptly and heed instructions for addressing.

Addresses must be legible. Easter greetings to overseas army personnel should show in addition to the name and address of the sender, the name, rank, Army serial number, branch of service, organization, APO number of the addressee and the postoffice through which the mail is to be routed.

Easter mail for Navy personnel besides the name and address of the sender, should show the name, rank or rating of the addressee and the naval unit to which he is assigned, or the notifiers with ship or postoffice through more than 560 miles to be routed. The so-called "war tires" are available to all eligible citizens as replacements. Motorists with mileage rations of less than 560 miles monthly may still apply for used and recapped tires as replacements.

MOTORISTS MUST SHARE RIDES OR FORFEIT B CARDS

Prentiss M. Brown, Price Administrator, Warns of Drastic New Ruling.

Motorists are facing loss of supplemental "B" and "C" gasoline rationing books issued for occupational uses if they refuse to participate in the ride-sharing clubs.

Prentiss M. Brown, price administrator, has ordered local rationing boards to insist that applicants for supplemental ration books belong to full ride sharing clubs when the books become renewable beginning Mar. 22.

If arrangements to carry three other persons to and from work regularly have not been made, the applicant will have to produce evidence that alternate means of transportation are not available and that he is sharing his car with as many people as possible.

Brown said that ride-sharing must be made an universal practice if passenger car mileage is to be reduced to the 5000-mile-a-year average recommended by the Baruch rubber investigating committee.

The "B" and "A" books provide 378 miles of driving a month in the eastern states and 470 miles outside of the area. There is no driving ceiling on "C" cards.

TWO CARROLLTOWN BROTHERS LISTED MISSING IN ACTION

Ashville Youth Is Also Reported As Prisoner of the Japanese By the Government

Two Carrolltown brothers who had not been heard from during more than a year were reported as missing in action in the North African battlefront, and another is a prisoner of war.

Listed as missing are: Pvt. Michael Dindosh, 31, Carrolltown. Pvt. John Dindosh, 22, Carrolltown. Pvt. Ardell W. Igo, Fallentimber. Reported as a prisoner of war of the Japanese Government: Pvt. Charles L. Gibbons, Ashville, R. D. 1.

The parents of the Pvts. Dindosh, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dindosh, have been notified by the War Department that the two men have been missing in action in the North African campaign since Feb. 17.

The two brothers, who had been practically inseparable for the last 10 years, had worked together in the Sterling mine at Bakerton before entering the service together in March of last year. They made special requests that they be sent to the same training camp. The army complied with the request and sent both of them to Ft. Belvoir, Va., where they were attached to an armored division.

The had remained together since, going to England, and then to Africa. The missing brothers are two of four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Dindosh serving in the armed forces of the nation. The other two sons are Pvt. Paul Dindosh, 28, located at Ft. Wadsworth, N. Y., and Pvt. Matthew Dindosh, 21, located at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

All four of the Dindosh brothers in the armed forces were graduated Carrolltown High School. There are three daughters and another son in the family.

Pvt. Ardell W. Igo, Fallentimber, whose wife and two children reside in Altoona, also has been listed by the War Department as missing in action.

Pvt. Gibbons, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Gibbons, of Ashville R. D. 1, was reported as being held a prisoner by the Japanese following the fall of the Philippine Islands.

RECAPPERS FLOODED WITH TIRE ORDERS

Lifting of restrictions on recapping of automobile tires has resulted in a rush of business for auto service shops and recapping plants, it is reported, and some of the retreading plants are working on a 24-hour basis. Heavy backlogs of orders have been piled up due to the rush and some of the plants are days behind on deliveries.

According to reports motorists are receiving satisfactory service from recapped tires. Some that have been in service from 7,000 to 13,000 miles are still in usable condition. Tire men credit motorists with better care of their tires under rubber restrictions and proper inflation are the tall order for most motorists now according to figures recappers warn.

CAMBRIA IS LEADING IN WAAC CAMPAIGN

Cambria County has again taken the lead in the WAAC recruiting campaign in the Harrisburg district, according to word received at Johnstown Recruiting Substation.

Appearing in the weekly bulletin from the headquarters of the district embracing 35 counties, is this tribute to the county recruiters:

"Cambria county has passed all counties in the number of enrollments and enjoys a very sizeable margin at this writing. With 73 enrollments to date, Technical Sgt. Walter Myers and the Johnstown commandos have blizzed their way to the top in a concentrated drive that left us all gaping along the way, and more coming if we are to reckon with Cambria county's past history."

JAY SPERRY DIES OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ASIATIC ACTION

Mother of Patton Sergeant Is Notified By War Department of His Demise in India.

A telegram was received by Mrs. Cecelia Sperry, of this place, Wednesday morning at 10:30, from the War Department in Washington, stating that her son, Staff Sergeant James B. (Jay) Sperry, aged 27 years, died on March 14th, as a result of wounds which were received in action in defense of his country.

Sergeant Sperry, well known to our local readers, was a flight mechanic of a bomber squadron, with the U. S. Army Air Corps, located with the Asiatic Area, somewhere in India.

He enlisted in the service on November 10th, 1941, in Seattle, Washington, where he had at that time been employed by the Bowing Aircraft Company, entering their service on Feb. 1, 1942.

Sgt. Sperry received his basic training at Keesler Field, Mississippi, and left the United States for foreign service in November, 1942. He had received no furloughs since his enlistment. The last letter Mrs. Sperry received from her son was on March 11.

The deceased was born on April 14th, 1915, and received his education in the Patton Public Schools. He graduated from the Patton High School in 1933. Besides his mother, he is survived by his step-father, David Sperry, one sister, Sara Sperry, and one brother, Rhuel Sperry. He is also survived by his grandfather, David P. Roberts, and an uncle, B. F. Franklin, who makes his home with the Sperry family.

SURPRISE AIR RAID TEST SLATED THIS MONTH

District residents will be given their first "surprise" air-raid practice test under the new regulations within the present month, it has been announced by the State Council of Defense. The test will be the first one under the new unified tri-state regulations, in which residents will not be given advance notice of the time of the drill. No indication was given as to whether the test will be conducted as a daylight drill, or blackout.

REVLOC YOUTH LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION

Cpl. Thomas Banfield, 23, of Revloc, is missing in action with the American Expeditionary Forces in North Africa, the War Department last Friday notified his mother, Mrs. Sara Banfield of Revloc.

Cpl. Banfield enlisted in the Army in 1941, and trained with the Rangers. He is a former employee of the Monroe Coal Co. mine in Revloc. A brother, Pvt. Banfield is on duty with the Army in Mississippi.

RAILROAD WRECK SNARLS TRAFFIC

Traffic on two main Portage streets was blocked for more than two hours on Sunday by a loaded P. R. coal train, after a locomotive was derailed and overturned. Two locomotives were hauling approximately 50 cars out of the Puritan branch when the front locomotive was derailed. No one was injured.

MRS. ROSE FRANKLIN IS ALSO EXPLOSIVE AGENT

Mrs. Rose Franklin, Justice of the Peace, of Hastings, advises us that she is an Explosives Licensing Agent for Hastings and Vicinity and that her appointment was made by R. R. Sayre, Director Explosives Control, Bureau of Mines, Washington. She is authorized to issue new or renewal licenses.

POLICY COMMITTEE OF MINE WORKERS SUBMITS ITS TERMS

Proposals for Inclusion in New Agreement List Number of Added Demands.

While the \$2-a-day issue has monopolized stormy bituminous contract proceedings in New York, a number of other important proposals will be introduced later, it was revealed on Wednesday in New York by a union official now attending the negotiations, as a representative of the District No. 2 miners.

At meetings of the International Policy Committee recommendations were adopted as the policy of the United Mine Workers of America to be used as a guide for all districts in the bituminous regions in the negotiation of wage agreements.

Miners will ask that the present six-day week terminate as soon as the war emergency ends and also will ask that "to conform with the basic and legal requirement for the industry, the maximum hours and working time provisions be amended to establish portal-to-portal for starting and quitting time for all underground workers."

A \$30 hike will be asked for each miner as a vacation payment. The clause to be requested included into the new contract, states: "The compensation payments for the vacation period shall be increased to fifty dollars."

Operators will be asked to pay double time for all work performed Sundays. Miners also seek abolition of the third shift at all mines in a proposed amendment.

The clause requesting the pay hike reads: "Rates for all classifications of inside and outside day men shall be increased \$2 a day, except those classifications with sub-standard wages, namely greasers, trappers, flaggers, switch-throwers and slate pickers who are paid by the ton."

"Combined cutting and loading rates shall be increased 28 1-4 cents per ton; 25 1-4 cents of this amount shall be added to the existing rates for loaders and three cents to existing cutting rates. Pick mining shall be increased 28 1-4 cents per ton. Yardage and deadwork rates shall be increased 28.57 per cent. Cutting rates on track mounted machines shall be increased 3 cents per ton. Where tonnage rates are paid on conveyors or other mechanical loading devices the increase shall be 25 1-4 cents a ton. Footage and yardage rates shall be increased 28.57 per cent."

To include members of the Mine Officials Union, the term "mine worker" as used in the agreement shall include all persons "inside and outside of the mine, except the superintendent."

Another provision specifies: "Operators who are parties to this agreement shall include clauses to protect the wage scales and conditions of employment whenever any of their mines are let to any corporation, or company, or individual for operating purposes. This obligation is to protect the contract and preserve the interest of the miners."

"Only union made explosives, mine supplies and tools shall be made available for use by the mine workers."

"The operator shall be responsible for delivering mine cars to and from the miner's working place."

Miners will try to remove the seven-cent daily assessment placed on electric lamps in a clause: "Mine workers shall not be required to pay for safety equipment and devices, including electric light and cap rentals. All day and monthly men shall be furnished necessary tools and equipment without charge."

"No charge shall be made to the miners for blacksmithing."

"It will not be a violation of any terms of the agreement for the mine workers to cease work to prevent the shipment of coal to non-union concerns or where a strike is in progress."

Individual districts of the UMWA shall not negotiate agreements which grant more favorable conditions to the operators than obtained in the basic contract."

BAKERTON MINE RESUMES WORK ON MONDAY LAST

Miners employed in the Smokeless mine of the McCombie Coal Co., near Bakerton ended their week-long walk-out by returning to work on Monday.

The 36 men employed in the mine refused to enter the pits on the first day of the month when a motorman was placed on coal loading. Men went back to work when the center of the controversy transferred to another mine rather than accept a change from motorman to loader.

Lewis Evans and Bernard Timms, district organizers, met with the company officials in an effort to bring about a settlement to the dispute.