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WLB COAL CONTRACT APPROVAL HAILED BY MINERS OF DISTRICT

Men of This Section Will Share in Big Melon by Retroactive Portal Payments.

The War Labor Board approval of the bituminous mine wage contract has averted new unrest for most of the coal industry, but a still deadlocked dispute raised threats of trouble in the Southern Appalachian areas. The WLB voted 10 to 2 Friday night last with two of its four industry members dissenting, to approve a portal to portal contract between the United Mine Workers and seven per cent of the soft coal industry.

The new contract gives the miners \$8.50 daily for eight and three-quarter hours, including travel time—the same provisions in the contract negotiated last November by U. M. W. President John Lewis and Coal Administrator Harold Ickes for the period of government operation.

Miners in Cambria, Indiana and Somerset counties will benefit to the extent of approximately \$1,150,000 as a result, representing portal-to-portal pay and retroactive wage claims of the workers.

Operators in District No. 2 of the United Mine Workers have agreed to make payment of the retroactive wage claims of \$40 per miner in four equal installments of \$10 each. This arrangement has been agreed to by the mine workers' officials. The men will be paid ten dollars extra each pay period during the next two months.

In addition to this payment miners will be entitled to a \$50 vacation bonus provided in the union-operator contract. The bonus will be made available after June 5th.

With each miner receiving \$90 bonus pay during the next two months operators will pay out approximately \$2,650,000 in the three counties.

According to the latest statistics available there are 12,142 miners in Cambria county, 9,120 in Somerset county, and 8,120 in Indiana county. To meet this heavy financial burden on the operators the War Labor Board recently approved a 17-cent raise a ton on coal prices. Operators however declare this amount is not sufficient to meet the increase in the cost of production of coal as a result of the portal-to-portal pay agreement.

The operators are now expected to press their claims for still further increases in the price of coal.

James Mark, president of District No. 2, of the United Mine Workers, last Friday issued an appeal to the miners to remain at work on Memorial Day. He pointed out that under the operator-union agreement workers in the district would receive time and one-half time for working on the holiday. J. N. Geyer, regional bituminous mine manager, previously had sent out a plea to the miners to continue at work on the holiday.

News of the war labor board's approval of the portal-to-portal pay rate has been received enthusiastically among the union members. One union spokesman said that the action of the board probably will end the feeling of unrest which has prevailed in the coal fields since the portal-to-portal pay issue was first brought to the attention of the WLB.

Edward Sweeney, of Lilly, secretary-treasurer of District No. 2, declared Saturday that the War Labor Board action would "clear up the situation in Western Pennsylvania" and "end the restlessness among miners."

STATE CHECKING ON UNLICENSED DOGS

Fred Sherry of Beltsano, was ordered to pay the costs and fines totaling \$107.35 by Justice of the Peace, Mrs. Charles P. Rowland of Ebensburg, before whom he appeared to answer charges that his dogs destroyed and injured a number of sheep.

In addition to the penalty, two valuable coon dogs, valued at \$100 each were destroyed, after they were said to have attacked sheep on the farm of Frank Kirsch near Nicktown.

State officers, now conducting a vigorous check in Cambria county on unlicensed dogs, announced Monday night that 63 dog owners have been prosecuted and handed fines.

More than 3,000 dog owners have failed to secure licenses for their pets the state officers revealed. Fines imposed have ranged from \$9.25 up.

Warning to Cambria County dog owners to secure a license immediately for their pets was given by the officers. Licenses are available at the county treasurer's office in the court house.

—Endorse all your gasoline coupons now. You can help kill the black market.

ST. AUGUSTINE PICNIC

A picnic will be held at St. Augustine next Sunday, May 28th, for the benefit of the church there. A chicken dinner and supper will be served. There will be games and amusements also. The general public is cordially invited to attend.

SAFETY IS VITAL TO MAINTAIN HEAVY OUTPUT OF COAL

Speakers Advise at Meeting of Mining Representatives at Hastings Friday.

Reduction of accidents to maintain vital coal production to meet the nation's stepped-up demands were urged by speakers Friday night at a safety rally held in Hastings.

Representatives of the United Mine Workers, State Department of Mines and the Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers' Association, stressed the importance of cutting down all lost time accidents.

Francis Feehan of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, stressing that "our greatest asset in life is life itself," called upon mine owners and workers to strive for greater safety accomplishments.

Harvey Younker of Johnstown, U. M. W. representative, pointed to the important stake miners have in accident prevention. He urged the men to do everything possible to eliminate accidents and by so doing to promote the nation's war effort. He stated that the price of safety is eternal vigilance and described efforts made by the mine union to promote and obtain safety legislation.

M. W. Thomas of Windber, state mine inspector for the twenty-fourth bituminous district, said the mining industry still has much to do in the matter of safety. He urged employment of safety inspectors by the company and stated that falls of coal and roof have been the biggest factors in mine mishaps. He asked elimination of absenteeism as a major aid in cutting down accidents.

FEDERATED CLUBS IN BARNESBORO MEET

Problems affecting the licensed social organizations were discussed at a meeting on Sunday of the Cambria County Federation of Clubs held in the Barnesboro Moose Hall. Some 68 delegates, representing 24 different clubs in the county, attended.

Among the items discussed was the "cabaret tax" and a proposal that servicemen be guaranteed their jobs provided they apply for reinstatement within forty days after their return from the service. A report was submitted on the convention held in Lebanon on May 6, and 7.

Four new clubs were admitted to membership in the federation, two of them from Colver and one each from Johnstown and Patton. Meetings of the Federator were suspended during June, July and August and will be resumed in September at a date and place to be decided later. Michael Devett, vice president, was in charge of the meeting Sunday, in the absence of President Joseph Washington.

RETURN OF MINES TO OWNERS LOOMS

Return of the district's coal mines to private ownership following the War Labor Board's approval of the miner-operator contract looms this week with the scheduling of a conference in Washington.

Representatives of the wage negotiating groups in the bituminous coal industry have been invited to a conference Friday to discuss possible termination of government possession of the pits.

Deputy Coal Mines Administrator C. J. Potter of Indiana called the conference following the WLB approval of the contract consummated December 17th.

Uncle Sam took over the business of running the nation's mines last May when a nation-wide strike crippled the industry. He has since maintained a controlling hand. With the union-operator contract given the official O. K., it is believed the government will relinquish control to private owners.

Memorial Day Period to Be Observed in Patton

As in former years, the Walter McCoy Post, American Legion, and the John White Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will again make the Memorial Day period an observance of special events.

On Sunday evening next, May 28, both the Legion and V. F. W. members will attend church services in the Methodist Church at 7:30 P. M. Club members will assemble at their Club rooms at 7:15 to march to the church in a body. Rev. Ralph Krause, church pastor, will preach at the service. The Patton Fire Company also will join with the ex-servicemen in this exercise and all firemen are requested to meet at the fire hall at 7:00 o'clock on Sunday evening.

On Memorial Day morning, Tuesday, May 30th, veterans are requested to meet at their club rooms at 8:30 o'clock. School children, Boy Scouts, and the Fire Company will join with them in a street parade,

that will have its culmination at the vacant lot on Magee avenue opposite the Good Building, where a fitting Memorial Day Program will be carried out. Citizens, generally, are urged to attend this program, particularly this year when the strife of raging battles engulf so many of our own local boys.

Master of ceremonies at the program will be the Rev. Thomas McQuillen. The invocation will be given by Rev. Father Florian, of St. Mary's Church. The speaker of the day will be Rev. Father Flavian, O. S. B., pastor of St. Lawrence's Catholic church. St. Lawrence; the closing prayer will be given by the Rev. Ralph Krause of the local Methodist Church.

Immediately following the program the ex-servicemen will visit the local cemeteries in their annual salute to their dead comrades, and then will visit the cemeteries at St. Lawrence, St. Augustine and Chest Springs.

Patton's Recreation Park Opens for Third Season Next Tuesday

The Patton Recreation Park will open its 1944 season on Memorial Day Tuesday, May 30th, and will close on Labor Day, September 4th.

The park will open daily at 9:00 A. M. Special chaperon permits may be issued by any two committeemen for use to 11:00 P. M. The swimming pool will be open from 11:00 A. M. to noon for beginning swimmers, and from 1:00 P. M. till darkness for all bathers. During July and August morning classes will be held to teach beginners and a Red Cross life-saving course will be offered.

Season tickets are now on sale at the borough office, high school and the park. The children's tickets, valid on all days except Sundays and holi-

days, are \$1.00, plus 20c tax. The adult tickets are \$2.00, plus 40c tax. Single admissions are 12c and 30c, tax included.

All club or group picnics must be arranged with the park supervisor at least a week in advance so that reservations and charges may be made. No arrangements are necessary for family picnics. Firewood, if not wanted, will be furnished free.

Several new sliding boards and seesaws have been added to the amusements at the park, and cooperation for their care is asked. The committee likewise will ask the local clubs to donate some small amusements to the park. All are urged to use and enjoy the park and help make it the most beautiful in the county.

FIRE DRILLS IN PATTON SCHOOLS

James Blake, chief of the Patton Fire Company, has released his final report on fire drills held in the local schools during the term, and is much gratified with the results. On behalf of the fire company he wishes to extend his thanks to the Public School officers and faculty, to Rev. Father Florian and the Sisters of the Parochial School for their fine cooperation.

The report follows: Public school—8 regular drills according to law. 650 pupils. First test drill May 22. School emptied in one minute and 30 seconds, the best record in the history of the Patton High School.

Parochial School—8 regular drills. 85 pupils. School emptied in one minute.

Second Ward School—8 regular drills. 175 pupils. School emptied in one minute.

LOUIS KINKEAD COMMISSIONED

Louis Kinkead, son of Mrs. F. H. Kinkead, of Patton, has been awarded the gold bars of a second lieutenant at graduation services in Yale University, New Haven, Conn., where he has been training as a technical officer in aircraft maintenance engineering.

Lt. Kinkead now is prepared for duty at an advanced flying field, where he will be in charge of a crew of enlisted men who are specialists in maintenance.

Prior to entering service March 5, 1943, the newly commissioned officer was employed in Bethpage, Long Island, where he worked on the first Helicat produced for the air corps. He received training at air fields in Missouri, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Lt. Kinkead is home this week on leave. He will go from Patton to the Liberal Army Air Field, at Liberal, Kansas, where he has been assigned.

BARNESBORO STORES' SUMMER CLOSING

The Barnesboro Business Men's Association announce that beginning on Wednesday afternoon, June 7th, and ending August 30th, the stores in Barnesboro will be closed on Wednesday afternoons, starting at 12:00 o'clock noon.

However on weeks when there is a holiday, the stores will remain open all day Wednesday.

MEMORIAL DAY DANCE

A Memorial Day Dance will be held in the Patton Eagles' Ball Room on Tuesday evening, May 30th. Dancing will begin at nine o'clock. Music for the affair will be furnished by Bruce Bowser and His Band. The admission will be 50 cents per person and the general public is cordially invited.

COUNTY DEMOCRATS PLAN UNITED EFFORT FOR FALL ELECTION

Guffey and Lawrence Appeal for Harmony at Dinner-Meeting at Ebensburg Hotel.

Appeals for harmony "to assure the reelection of Franklin D. Roosevelt" were made by Democratic party and labor leaders at a luncheon last Thursday at the Old Ebensburg Inn.

More than 100 prominent Democrats of the county heard Senator Joseph F. Guffey, State Chairman David L. Lawrence, Joseph A. Donoghue, regional director of the political action committee of the C. I. O.; John Mullen, Mayor of Clairton, and chairman of the political committee of the United Steel Workers of America, and others ask that every effort be made to have harmony in the party "so that a united front can be presented in November. Mr. Lawrence presided as toastmaster.

"We are interested in factional party disputes only as the affect the party," Mr. Lawrence declared. "Our sole interest is in the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt and all other considerations should give way to this objective. No factional dispute should be permitted to interfere in any manner with this and the other 66 counties in the state rolling up big majorities for the President in November."

Senator Guffey declared that the only means to insure a lasting peace was the reelection of the president.

"If the world is to avoid World War III, it is absolutely essential that President Roosevelt be reelected," the Senator declared. "That should be the aim of all our people regardless of party. But we cannot achieve that much desired aim unless the Democratic party presents a solid front in November. Party victory is essential not only for the good of the Democratic party, but of what is far more importance, for the good of the nation."

Plans to have every member of the C. I. O. register in the Democratic ranks are being formulated by that organization, Mr. Donoghue asserted.

Short address were made by Judge A. A. Nelson, Senator John J. Haluska, Michael J. Sewak, Mrs. Mabel Dias, Eddie McCloskey, Raymond Kirby, Robert Clark, and Attorney Samuel R. DiFrancesco.

The Democratic county committee will meet to elect a county chairman Although periodic tire check-ups ebensburg court house.

PATTON STUDENTS END FIRST AID COURSE

Sixteen pupils of the Patton Borough Schools, have completed the Red Cross course in First-Aid work, the Cambria County Red Cross Chapter at Johnstown, announced this week.

Teachers of the local class were Miss Anna Lacava and Miss Grace M. Ulrich. Patton pupils now eligible for first-aid certification, include:

John L. Barnard, Jr.; Eleanore Berdosky, Frederick James Burkhart, Lee George Gregly, Patty Lou Hoover, Frank Pius Jolly, Eleanor James Kumble, Stephany Millicent Lacey, Shirley Leonard, Richard Lowes, Jackie Reid, John Allen Reske, James Rhody, Wanda Marie Smith-bower, Rema Solomon, and Yvonne Yergler.

Patton schools have also added first-aid to their regular program and plan to continue instruction with the start of the next term in September.

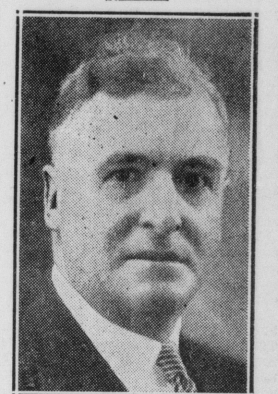
PATTON EAGLES ELECT OFFICERS

John Baranik was elected President of Patton Aerie, No. 1244, Fraternal Order of Eagles, at the recent reorganization meeting.

Other officers named for the coming year are Leo Donahue, vice president; Mark Brown, secretary; William Whiteford, chaplain; Albert Wilshire, conductor; Thomas Donahue, inside guard; Harry Dumm, outside guard, and George Lehman, trustee. Herman McNulty and Robert Forsythe were elected delegates to the State Eagles' Convention to be held next month in Harrisburg.

MINING DISTRICT PRESIDENT PRAISES SAFETY CAMPAIGN

James Mark and Others Talk at Rally Held in Barnesboro Stadium on Sunday.



Necessity of curbing lost time mine accidents and eliminating work stoppages so as to maintain the production of coal needed so vitally for the prosecution of the war was emphasized by James Mark, president of District 2, United Mine Workers of America, in an address at a safety rally Sunday afternoon in the Barnesboro stadium.

President Mark informed the large crowd that the United Mine Workers wholeheartedly is supporting the mine safety movement and said that safety is absolutely necessary to the production of coal.

"Taking advantage of the war is unpatriotic," declared the U. M. W. District head. He said there should be no friction between management and labor and there should be absolutely no work stoppages in war time.

The miners' leader pointed out that at present there are 21 per cent less coal miners in the Central Pennsylvania fields than there were a year ago. He said the older men are being called upon to carry the burden of increased coal production.

Mark declared that the accident rate still is too high and urged the safety committees at each mine and the operators to work together closely in order to reduce the accident toll.

A total of four and three-quarter tons of coal are lost every time a man fails to report to his place of work, B. W. Derringer, a representative of the Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers' Association, disclosed. He said that regardless of whether the man is absent because of an accident, whether he is absent because of a strike or just because he didn't want to work, the same amount of war-vital coal production is lost.

Derringer said the quota set for the bituminous coal fields for 1944 is 600,000,000 tons. He said that in order to meet that quota it will be necessary to curb the accident toll. He said all of the miners are taught the fundamentals of safety but too often they do not apply them at their work. He said the average age of the coal miner today is 44 years.

George Grove, district supervisor of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, explained the importance of conserving manpower by the prevention of lost time and fatal accidents. He emphasized that safety to a large extent is in the hands of the individual miner. The mine official declared that some miners have worked between 50 and 60 years without a lost time accident to prove that safety can be practiced by all.

P. J. Callahan, state mine inspector, said it is the patriotic duty of every coal miner to practice safety so as to produce the largest amount of coal possible for the prosecution of the war. "Freedom from accident isn't pure luck. It is due to experience, proper training and exercising reasonable care," he declared.

Falls of roof and sides and transportation are the two greatest causes of accidents. He urged that these conditions be studied in every mine and moves be made to eliminate all hazards.

Sunday's rally was in charge of Dennis J. Keenan, Barnesboro, state mine inspector, and John J. Dougherty, federal mine inspector.

BARBER SHOP CLOSING

The Patton Barber Shops will be closed for three days next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 30 and 31 and June 1st. Monday evening, May 29th, the shops will remain open until 9 P. M.

—Keep on buying bonds, stamps.