



UNION PRESS-COURIER

Union Press, Established May, 1935.

Patton Courier, Established Oct., 1893.

VOL. 52. NO. 11.

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PATTON, PENNSYLVANIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1945.

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 PER YEAR

U. M. W. of A. Scale Committee Sessions To Be Held In Altoona February 2-3; For District No. 2

With selection of representatives to the important national scale and policy committee heading the agenda, plans for the biennial convention of District 2, of the United Mine Workers of America were announced Wednesday by James Mark, district president.

More than 200 delegates, representing 198 local mine unions and approximately 38,000 district workers will meet on February 2 and 3 in the Eagles' hall at Altoona to elect scale representatives and transact other business.

John L. Lewis, who has guided the destinies of the mine union for more than a quarter century, will be asked to attend the convention, President Mark said. Should press of business prevent the colorful national union leader from attending the sessions, he will be requested to send a representative from the international office.

At the last district convention held in 1943, John O'Leary, international vice president of the UMWA attended. With termination of the mine contract only three months away, the district session takes on added prominence.

Four committeemen will be elected from the rank and file of the union locals to participate in charting a course for the forthcoming wage negotiations with the operators. The national policy committee will meet sometime in February and will draft wage and working demands in accordance with instructions of the September international convention in Cincinnati.

President Mark, Vice President Clarence Donaldson of Somerset, Secretary-Treasurer Edward Sweeney, Lilly, and International Board Member John Ghizzoni, of Homer City, by virtue of their offices, also are members of the scale committee, giving District 2 eight representatives.

Notice of the convention was forwarded to all locals by President James Mark during this month. The locals will select delegates for each 50 members or fractional part.

Scale committeemen will be selected to represent the following regions: No. 1—Clearfield, Centre, Indiana and Clinton Cos. No. 2—Huntingdon, Bedford, Blair Somerset and Fayette Cos. No. 3—Clarion, Jefferson, Armstrong and Elk Cos. No. 4—Cambria Co.

Scale committeemen named at the last convention were William Dembosky, Michael Panchak, Arnold Gabelli and Sam Burns.

President Mark also announced he has forwarded a letter to all local unions requesting miners to work every day during 1945 with the exception of Sundays. The letter was forwarded following this request received from Secretary of Interior Ickes.

CLEAR DRIVER IN ROAD DEATH

A coroner's jury on Saturday afternoon exonerated Paul Heinman of Barnesboro of any criminal negligence in connection with the death of Joseph Kuzma, 46, of North Barnesboro.

The inquest was conducted by Coroner Patrick McDermott in the office of Justice of the Peace David A. Westover of Barnesboro.

Kuzma was injured fatally on Christmas night when he was struck by a car operated by Heinman. The accident occurred on a street in Barnesboro. Testimony showed that it was snowing heavily at the time and that visibility was very poor.

Members of the jury were Dr. A. Westover, R. H. Greenwood, H. T. Hershberger, R. L. Struble and John Valenty.

SHOE STAMPS WILL NOT BE CANCELLED

Cancellation of outstanding shoe stamps is not being considered, the Altoona District Office of Price Administration has announced.

Although increased military demands are cutting into civilian supplies, the War Production Board Office of Civilian Requirements said that shoe supplies are adequate to honor stamps now outstanding.

While the War Production Board has not yet completed its estimates of 1945 production, OPA said indications are that the next shoe stamps probably will not be validated until some time next summer.

O. P. A. said that no specific date for making the next stamp good can be given now. That decision awaits further information on production for 1945.

AREA SHIVERS IN ANOTHER STORM

Bitter, sub zero cold struck Cambria County early this week and gusts of wind whipped up drifts that kept many roads closed and communities isolated for some time, and countless farm homes.

Blinding gales of Monday night's blizzard subsided Tuesday morning and temperatures remained near zero throughout the day and started to dip sharply on Tuesday evening.

Many rural roads in Northern Cambria are reported still closed while highway crews work to keep main routes passable. The State Highway department reported 2 inches of snow to have fallen in Cambria County on Tuesday.

Patton was isolated on Monday night until Tuesday afternoon when highway plows opened the Patton-Carrolltown road. The Patton-Hastings road was still closed Wednesday afternoon and the Patton-Chest Springs road was opened Wednesday morning.

Highway crews were hampered by the breakdown of equipment including the large rotary plow that had been used in clearing deep drifts on north county roads.

Most rural schools were closed on Tuesday and school attendance in general was far below normal. Many country schools remained closed on Wednesday.

Thirty-five automobiles and a mowers' bus were caught in drifts on Clark's Hill, a short distance out of Patton on Tuesday. Many were given shelter in farm homes. During the peak of the storm roads were drifted shut within minutes after they were plowed.

One way traffic is still in effect on the road between Patton and Carrolltown at some points.

NICKTOWN SOLDIER KILLED IN GERMANY

Pvt. Francis A. Nelen, the nineteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nelen of Nicktown R. D., was killed in action on December 5th, while in the fighting in Germany, according to war department information sent his parents.

The soldier has been in the service for less than a year when he met his death. He was inducted on December 28th, 1943, and went overseas with an infantry unit after training at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

Besides his parents the soldier is survived by these brothers and sister: Pvt. Marinus, who is serving on Saipan with the Army Engineers; Mrs. Clair Bechel of Ebensburg R. D.; and Lucinda, Edward, Kathleen, Regis, Grace, Rosella and Bernadine, all at home.

RECRUITS CALLED BY CRESSON BOARD

Cresson—The following recruits from Cambria County Draft Board No. 1 headquarters at Cresson, have been called for induction this month: Jack C. Murray, Hastings. George Carruthers, Gallitzin. John Vincent Lawn, Gallitzin. Anthony J. Ribaric, Patton R. D. Raymond J. Marks, Patton. Gerald F. Albright, Patton. Guy C. Curry, Mountandale. James Paul Angelo, Hastings. Urban John Kepera Jr., St. Boniface. William F. Callahan, Cresson. John W. Gibbons, Ashville. John Lawson, Patton. Joseph W. Eyon, Gallitzin. Francis G. Shevencok, Gallitzin. Mark R. Arnold, Patton. Charles Russell Stuller, Flinton. Charles William Gall, Lilly.

RAILROAD CONDUCTOR IS KILLED AT GALLITZIN

Harry Thomas, 52 year old Pennsylvania Railroad freight conductor from Altoona, was killed on Thursday night last when he was struck by a train near AR tower at Gallitzin. His body was found along the railroad tracks after two freight trains had passed and he was placed in a passing passenger train and removed to the Altoona depot. He was pronounced dead when the train pulled into Altoona. Thomas is known to have stepped from a train to put up a retainer.

PATTON SERGEANT HAD EXPERIENCES IN 40 MONTHS AWAY

One of Most Dangerous of His S. Pacific Missions Turned Out to Be Easiest One.

One of the most dangerous of the many dangerous missions on which Staff Sergeant William Gresko of Patton was sent during his service in the South Pacific, turned out to be the easiest one. The enemy made a slight mistake in estimating the situation with the result that a 10-man patrol routed a much larger force of Japs.

The infantryman told of the experience, which was also one of his closest brushes with death, when he returned to the United States after more than 40 months overseas.

"It was after our outfit landed in Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea," the sergeant explained, in an interview released by the War Department Bureau of Public Relations on Tuesday of this week. "I was assigned to a 10-man patrol which was to go to Dornea and make a landing there. This was about 30 miles up the beach from our original landing."

"The purpose of our patrol was to check on enemy strength and locate any roads and trails so we could outflank the enemy," he continued. "The Japs apparently thought it was another task force in a landing operation and ran out before we got there. They abandoned a large quantity of equipment in their haste to get away."

"That is—they all ran out except one—who failed to get away. We were scouting trails to see where a battalion could get through. This lone Jap appeared about three feet off the trail and about 10 feet from me."

"Since he was all ready to shoot when I saw him, I did not stop to ask him how he became separated from the rest of his outfit. I just shot first. That's why I am able to come home on furlough."

Sergeant Gresko left the United States in June of 1941, being sent to Hawaii where he was when the Japanese attack started the war six months later.

In Hawaii he was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division and accompanied the unit on its drive toward the Philippines. He left his division last October 8th.

Sergeant Gresko has been awarded the combat infantryman badge, coveted award for exemplary conduct in action against the enemy. He has been spending his furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gresko in Patton before being reassigned.

SUPERVISORS WILL HAVE ANNUAL MEET

The annual convention of the Cambria County Supervisors, Auditors, and Good Roads Association will be held in the main Court room of the County courthouse on Friday, January 26, 1944. Theme of the convention will be better roads in the townships of the county. Post-war planning which was a lively subject at the last annual meeting will again be given much thought. Mr. H. A. Thompson of Philadelphia, state secretary of the Supervisors' Association has accepted an invitation to address the body. Other speakers will include Mr. Hiram G. Andrews, assemblyman-elect from Johnstown, Mr. Henry Bock, county superintendent of roads and a host of other highway officials. The meeting will open at 10:00 A. M. and continue the balance of the day.

Officers of the organization are as follows: A. P. Norton, Lower Yoder Township, President; John G. Valko, Adams Township, Vice-President; Edward Miscoe, Lower Yoder, Secretary; D. H. Weimer, Upper Yoder Township, Treasurer. A printed annual guide book in the form of a program will be issued and distributed to the delegates as well as those who are interested. It will contain the names of all the supervisors as well as the auditors in the townships of the county.

ST. BENEDICT STATION ON NON-AGENCY BASIS

The Public Utility Commission last week authorized the New York Central Railroad Company to operate its station at St. Benedict on a non-agency freight basis. The company testified that revenue from St. Benedict formerly an agency freight station, declined progressively since 1941. The present building will be maintained for the protection of less tan car load shipments.

DEADLINE ADVANCED

The deadline for filing the 1944 personal property tax statements has been advanced from Feb. 15 to Jan. 15, it has been announced by the Cambria County Commissioners.

Approximately 4,000 forms for personal property will be mailed out by the commissioners in the near future.

—Keep on buying War Bonds and Stamps—and then keep them.

MARTIN NAMES NEW MINE INSPECTOR FOR SEVENTH DISTRICT

A. J. Nairn Will Serve Bituminous Area Formerly Covered by Roy Cunningham.

A. J. Nairn of Johnstown Friday was appointed by governor Martin as bituminous mine inspector to fill a vacancy in the State Department of Mines.

Mr. Nairn, who had been serving as an acting inspector since May, Friday received notice of his appointment. The post pays \$4,800 a year.

Richard Maize, secretary of the State Department of Mines, named Mr. Nairn as acting inspector of the Seventh Bituminous District to succeed W. Roy Cunningham, now serving in the armed forces. He came to the county in May to assume his duties.

The new state mine inspector is a veteran of nearly 30 years in the coal industry. A native of the Houtzdale district, Mr. Nairn began his coal career in Johnstown as a fire boss at the Franklin No. 2 mine of the Cambria Steel Company.

He was stationed from 1916 to 1920 on a rescue car of the U. S. Bureau of mines and in January, 1941, was named senior inspector with the bureau in charge of Greene and Fayette Counties. He remained with the U. S. Bureau of Mines until May when he was named an acting inspector with the state department.

He is a brother of Patrick Nairn, well known in the district, who formerly served as deputy secretary of mines. Patrick Nairn is now safety inspector for the H. C. Frick Coal Company at Uniontown.

As inspector for the seventh district Mr. Nairn will have a mine territory ranging over a Fortage-Vintondale periphery. Governor Martin Friday also appointed Charles Edward Fisher of Mather, Greene Co., to the post of state bituminous inspector.

STATE DRAFT BOARDS GIVEN REMINDER

Pennsylvania's 422 local draft boards have received a reminder that existing regulations prohibit registrants from receiving an induction postponement to "settle up affairs."

Regulations also ban more than 2 60-day induction delays for any other reason. Col. John McI. Smith, deputy state selective service director, said.

Smith said the reminder was issued to "tighten up" on induction delays.

BURKEY TO HEAD PATTON FIREMEN

E. J. Burkey was elected president of the Patton Volunteer Fire Company No. 1, for the ensuing year. The other officers chosen are: William P. Leary, vice president; Elmer Crowell, who was reelected for the 21st consecutive year as secretary; Theodore E. Ott, treasurer; Harvey J. Mulligan, chief engineer; James Blake, fire chief; and Water Burkey, trustee for three years.

Fire loss of only \$310 during the last year in Patton Borough was revealed by the Chief James Blake. The 1944 fire loss was the lowest in recent years, and the firemen express gratification of the excellent cooperation of the townspeople in averting fire hazards and in complying with the recommendations of firemen in eliminating dangerous conditions.

Members of the Patton company made only 21 runs throughout the year, including 12 in the borough. The other calls were two in East Carroll Township; two in Elder, two in Clearfield and one in Allegheny Townships, as well as one in Hastings. One false alarm was answered.

EHRENFELD STORE LOOTED

Thieves broke into the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Corporation's store in Ehrenfeld early last Friday morning and escaped with loot valued at approximately \$40. The thieves entered the store by breaking a plate glass window at a side door and loosening the lock. Jewelry and pen and pencil sets made up the majority of the loot.

—Hunting clubs to preserve the efficiency of the Home Guard are being advocated in England.

ANNIVERSARIES TO BE NUMEROUS THIS YEAR IN DIOCESE

Gallitzin and Cresson Priests to Mark Forty and Father Pad-den Thirty-five Years.

Many priests and churches in the Altoona diocese will observe anniversaries during the year of 1945. Rev. James E. Armor, who has been an invalid for a number of years, will observe his golden jubilee.

Two priests will observe the 40th anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood. They are Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bernard Conley, pastor of St. Francis avier's Church, Cresson, and Rev. Joseph H. Farran, pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Gallitzin.

The Very Rev. James A. Tolan will mark his 40th anniversary Dec. 2; and the Rev. Father James P. Padden, rector of St. Monica's Church, Chest Springs, will be a priest 35 years on June 15th. Rev. Edward B. Day and Rev. Francis A. Magee will mark their 30th year in the priesthood.

Three diocesan priests will reach their twenty-fifth milestone this year. Rev. Michael F. Mackowiak, Rev. Francis B. McCreesh and Rev. Richard J. Vereker.

Army Chaplain Bartley C. McAteer formerly of the St. Augustine parish, ordained Jan. 31, 1925; Rev. Dr. Joseph D. O'Leary, Mar. 7, and Rev. Dr. Anton Feyer, March 28th, will observe their twentieth anniversaries.

In addition to the 75th anniversary of St. Agnes' Parish, Lock Haven, six other parishes will celebrate their 25th or silver jubilees. These parishes are Most Holy Redeemer, Revloc; St. Peter's, Somerset; St. Agnes', at Lloydell; St. John the Baptist's, at Central City; Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown, and St. Joseph's, Coupon.

BARNESBORO MAN INJURED

Stephen Dembosky, 35, of Barnesboro, suffered serious chest injuries last Thursday afternoon while at work at the Monroe Coal Company operations. He was taken to the Memorial Hospital, Johnstown.

BERNARD WALTERS GETS BRONZE STAR

With the Fifth Army, Italy.—Corporal Bernard W. Walters of Patton, Pa., recently was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service with Lt. General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army in Italy.

The action for which the Corporal was decorated took place near Loiano, Italy, on October 6, 1944. Walters, wounded by enemy shell fragments, nevertheless successfully drove his vehicle away from a burning truck loaded with exploding ammunition and took several wounded men to a hospital. He has been awarded the Purple Heart for combat wounds.

Walters' unit has been in continuous combat in Italy for 138 days. It made the D day landings at Salerno, and also fought at the beachhead around Anzio.

Walters participated later in the drive to the Arno River and the assault on the Gothic line.

TWO LOCAL SOLDERS REPORTED WOUNDED

Two soldiers of the Patton section are listed on government casualty reports as being wounded this week. One of these is Sgt. Freeman Carretti, one of Patton's best known young men, and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carretti, of Fifth Avenue. Details of his wounds are not complete. However he met with his wounds in battle action with the Nazis.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Westrick of Patton, R. D., were informed that their son, Pvt. Francis, 20, was wounded slightly and was out of action only three days. A letter from him from somewhere in France, was dated December 4th. He entered the Army last May 22 and trained with the infantry before going overseas last November.

COUNTY AUXILIARY OF LEGION TO MEET TODAY

The quarterly meeting of the Cambria County Council of the American Legion Auxiliary is being held today, Thursday, in the Conemaugh-Franklin American Legion Home. Mrs. A. P. Strollo, Barnesboro, Council President, announced that a special program is being arranged for the session which will begin at 10:30 and continue throughout the day.

—Hunting clubs to preserve the efficiency of the Home Guard are being advocated in England.

ICKES' COAL SHORTAGE FEAR PROVEN WRONG PRODUCTION DISCLOSES

More Than Thirty-Seven Million Tons Are Mined Over Last Year's Record Output.

If there is any real coal shortage this winter, Harold Ickes' Solid Fuels Administration for War must share in the blame. The coal industry has met the 1944 quota set for it by Mr. Ickes.

If the SFAW correctly estimated national needs, there is no shortage. That the estimates were reasonably accurate is indicated by the fact that stockpiles are now about 50 per cent in excess of their pre-war average.

Bituminous coal is, of course, most important. It is the fuel of industry, and in addition it is used by a majority of households.

About mid-April the SFAW asked the bituminous mines to produce 620,000,000 tons, compared with the 595,000,000 mined in 1943. In mid-July this quota was raised to 626,000,000 tons.

Coal operators say that the entire year's production for 1944 will be about 37,000,000 tons above 1943's output. That would give 630,000,000 tons, in round figures—10,000,000 tons more than Mr. Ickes asked.

The Bureau of Mines reports an industrial stockpile of soft coal as of October, amounting to 59,257,000 tons. This was up about 8,000,000 tons above the Dec. 1943 figure, and it compares with an average pre-war stockpile of from 40,000,000 to 45,000,000 tons.

Anthracite also appears to be in excellent shape with stockpiles about four times as much as average.

These figures are not interpreted by coal operators to mean that there is plenty of coal to be used with the careless abandon with which we used to burn it. Rationing, on the present basis, presumably will continue to be necessary for some time.

But certainly there is nothing in the situation to warrant the dire prophecies of the SFAW last summer, when a huge shortage and "the worst coal crisis in American history" were talked about for this winter.

Some major catastrophe, such as a general strike, could still create such a shortage and such a crisis. But for the moment relations between operators and the United Mine Workers appear moderately peaceful.

BOY SCOUTS PLAN ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR

Dates were set and plans outlined for a series of winter and summer outdoor activities for troops of the Adm. Robert E. Peary Council, Boy Scouts of America, during a meeting of Council leaders last Thursday evening in Johnstown.

During the meeting, John H. Keller, executive secretary of the council, announced that two new units were registered and seven others organized during the past year.

First of a series of camping activities planned for 1945 will be a winter camp to be conducted Friday and Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16, 17 and 18, at Blue Knob Camp, near Portage and in Trent National Park, Somerset County. In the event a sufficient number of reservations are received the outing will be repeated the following week in the same camps.

Plans were outlined for the annual camporee which will be held this year at the Roaring Run Scout Reservation, Somerset County, June 16, 17 and 18. It is expected that more than 600 boys will participate in the affair.

The annual summer camp at the reservation will commence Sunday, June 24th, and continue in weekly periods as long as there are sufficient reservations to merit its operation. Scout officials will endeavor to give every boy in the council an opportunity to attend the camp.

Chief Keller announced that at the present there are 120 troops and cub packs in the council with a total of 2,552 boys, which is an increase over the previous year. In 1943 there were 118 units composed of 2,478 boys.

JUDGE MCKENRICK IS 60

Judge Ivan J. McKenrick observed his 60th wedding anniversary Wednesday of last week by performing his duties as usual at the Cambria County court house. Judge McKenrick, now serving his second term, was admitted to the bar in 1910. He was born December 27, 1884, in Clearfield.

ON NEW BOARD

Henry M. Gooderham, who formerly served on both the Ebensburg and Hastings OPA boards has been named to the price panel of the Johnstown board by transfer. Mr. Gooderham is now a resident of Johnstown.