

Expert Says New Gates Dam Would Affect Coal Mining

Sale Again Postponed At Hearing Monday

A tract of land in Northern Cambria County that nobody seemed to want recently has developed into the key area of a potential coal mining industry that would bring millions and millions of dollars to Cambria County.

This was a claim made on Monday as another round was fought in the battle to determine whether the Cambria County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs shall be permitted to construct a recreational area in White Township.

The sportsmen's project and dam building program is being opposed by coal mining interests with the claim that construction of a dam would preclude future mining operations in an extensive area lying upstream from the proposed dam breast.

The 118-acre tract in question lies north of St. Augustine where Wyrough Run and Killbuck Run feed into Beaverdam Run which the proposed dam would build.

Since persons interested in the coal mining industry have voiced opposition, there have been several conferences with the Pennsylvania State Department of Environmental Protection to find an answer to the two-sided squabble.

Sportsmen deny that a dam necessarily would prevent future mining operations. They add, the state pure streams authorities may not permit the streams to be polluted by new mines regardless of whether a dam is built.

But on Monday, consulting engineer W. A. Silliman of Philadelphia advised the commissioners against selling the land for resort purposes. He had been engaged by the county to inspect the land and submit a professional opinion on the question.

In a written report, Silliman said erection of a dam might affect 13,000 to 15,000 acres of potential coal workings lying upstream.

"The area which would drain into the dam contains from 60 million to 70 million tons of recoverable coal," he wrote, "and would be worth from \$250 million to \$350 million in wages, purchase supplies, taxes, etc., into the county."

Silliman said the Pennsylvania Sanitary Water Board has classified streams in the area as "clean streams" and would ordinarily place restrictions on drainage of mine water into them.

However, he added, "The board wishes to avoid complete prevention of operation and development of natural resources . . . and would be reasonable in its requirements."

After a discussion of Silliman's lengthy report, commissioners decided to take no immediate action. Instead, they decided to ask Silliman for further clarification of some points brought up in Monday's meeting.

Questions of whether or not: 1—Water from E seems pollute the streams into which it is discharged; 2—the State Sanitary Water Board will permit opening of the mines in the area; 3—the drainage could be handled underground until it passes the breast of the dam; and 4—the mine water could be successfully filtered.

Walter McCoy Post Votes \$50 Contribution to Lights

Walter McCoy Post 614, Patton, voted to donate \$50 to help defray the cost of Christmas lights for Patton's downtown area at a meeting last week.

Contributions also were given to Scotland School and "Give to Yank Who Gave" campaign. The unit will meet again next Tuesday.

Native of North Makes Last Trip South

Victor Venesky of Carrolltown R. D. bagged a "prize" on his newly-purchased farm last Friday afternoon—a Snowy White Owl having a wingspread of 5 feet, 6 inches. The birds are natives of the far north and only rarely is one seen in this area.

Mr. Venesky and his wife. At present Mr. Venesky is undecided what to do with the owl, but is having it mounted.

Parabrahm Studio Photo, Carrolltown

Many Fraternal, Social Clubs in North Cambria Holding Kids' Christmas Parties



James Studio Photo, Patton

Many North Cambria fraternal and social clubs are holding Christmas parties for children this year. The above picture was taken at the John White VFW Post party at Patton Sunday.

3 Patton Railroad Men to Get Awards

Dunbar, Santuccio Mark 40 Years' Service

Seven North Cambria men, including three present residents of Patton, will be honored Thursday of this week by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company in recognition of their many years of service to the concern.

The railroad will present a gold award to all employees with 50 or more years of service, a silver award to all those with 40 years' duty, and a bronze award to all those with 25 years.

Those entitled to silver awards include R. V. Dunbar, Patton freight agent; George Santuccio, Patton trackman; Howard Melon, Cresson, trainmaster; Willard Wilkinson, Cresson, train dispatcher; J. F. Hertz, Barnesboro, yard clerk; and J. B. Wagner, Cresson, chief clerk.

E. W. Eckenrode of Patton will receive a bronze award.

Christmas Arrives Early This Year For 9-Year-Old Ashville R. D. Boy

Christmas arrived early this year for Jimmy Beiswenger, 9-year-old Ashville, R. D. boy, who has been seriously ill for approximately two years.

Doctors believe Jimmy is in the final stages of Hodgkins gland disease, a usually fatal malady, and estimate his life expectancy at possibly three weeks.

The best friend of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beiswenger was taken to Altoona last Friday morning for additional X-ray treatment at the Mercy Hospital and to receive the Roman Catholic Sacrament of Confirmation, previously unavailable to him because of his confinement.

Christmas for Jimmy began when he returned to his home on Friday. During his absence Ralph Albarano and Guy Moick, members of the Gallitzin High School faculty, visited the Beiswenger home, their car laden with toys for little Jimmy. Not the least of the gifts contributed by the teachers and students was an electric train.

Mr. Albarano's attention to the plucky child's plight was called recently when an older sister of Jimmy was taken home from school because of illness.

It was after this visit to the boy's home that the teachers decided that what might be Jimmy's last Christmas, a party would be made an enjoyable one. Jimmy is one of eight children. The father is employed as a coal miner.

Hodgkins' disease which is slowly ebbing the life of Jimmy Beiswenger is a malady that enlarges the lymph glands of the neck. The enlargement usually extends to other glands and anemia develops. The disease also affects the spleen.

Gallitzin High School teachers after learning of the boy's plight, planned to give Jimmy a real Christmas party last Sunday but last Friday's visit was substituted at the request of the parents.

Jimmy, you see, does not realize the seriousness of the ailment with which he is afflicted and is making a game and confident fight to overcome the ravages of the disease. Boys and girls of Gallitzin are pulling for him.

Yes, we will all agree that this is the true Christmas spirit.

Spangler Community Tree Lights Are Stolen

Maybe some unemployed man needed them, maybe not! Anyway, one of the candidates for the "mascot" thief stole the lights of the Spangler Community Christmas Tree, located on the Spangler Station grounds, one night last week.

Another set was installed, but still the tree isn't what it should be.

In a true Christmas spirit, let's hope the persons who took them really did need them to make Christmas complete for their children.

Miners Will Work 2 Days Next Week

Next 2 Mondays Will Be Legal Holidays

Miners will work only two days each of the next two weeks. That's because Monday—one of the specified working days in the miners' three-day work week—will be a holiday both next week and the following week.

Next Monday, Dec. 26, will be observed as a legal holiday since Christmas falls on Sunday. The same is true of New Year's Day, which occurs the following week end.

James Mark, president of District 2, UMW, said this week that the miners will work only on Tuesday and Wednesday during the coming two weeks. He explained that they will not be permitted to work Thursday to make up the day lost on Monday.

When John L. Lewis put the miners on a three-day work week schedule late last month, he specified Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as the weekly days of work.

Mrs. Susan Schwab, 84-Year-Old Local Resident, Expires

Mrs. Susan Schwab, aged 84 years, one of Patton's oldest residents, died at her home at 1205 North Fifth Ave., at 4:35 o'clock last Sunday afternoon, of diseases incident to her advanced age.

The deceased was born June 19, 1865, a daughter of the late Emory and Elizabeth (Filo) Flesher.

Mrs. Schwab was a long-time resident of the Patton Community. Surviving are the following children: Mrs. Ann Jacobs of Patton; Mrs. Mary Bermonick of Johnstown; Frank Schwab of Patton; Albert Schwab of Tacoma, Washington; Charles Schwab of Patton; and Paul Schwab, also of Patton.

Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Theresa Zulick of Houtzdale, and a brother, George Flesher of Houtzdale. There are a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Schwab was a member of St. George's Catholic Church, this place, where funeral services were held with a solemn high mass on Wednesday morning at nine o'clock by Rev. Father Basil Balko, OSB, pastor. Interment was made in St. Mary's Cemetery, Patton.

Mrs. Vengrouskie Buried On Monday

Mrs. Agnes Vengrouskie of Patton, R. D. 1, died last Thursday at 1:15 p. m. at her home. Mrs. Vengrouskie had been a resident of this section for the past 26 years.

The well known lady is survived by her husband, Felix Vengrouskie and the following children: Leo, of Detroit, Mich.; Joseph, of Sheffield, Ala.; Mrs. Frank Finali of Patton; Mrs. Allen E. Burd of Lock Haven; Victor of Washington, D. C.; Edward, with the Army at Delling Field, Washington, D. C.; and Frank, with the Army at Ft. Knox, Ky. She was a sister of Felix Valashinas, of Mahanoy City, Pa. Five grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held at 9 a. m. Monday in St. George's Catholic Church in Patton by Rev. Father Basil Balko, OSB, and interment was made in St. Mary's Church Cemetery in Patton.

State highway crews were compelled to use much of their season's cinder supply in December.

St. Augustine Church Hall Destroyed Saturday Morning

Fire Guts Structure; To Continue Socials

The St. Augustine Church Hall was leveled by fire early last Saturday morning, with the loss set at upwards of \$4,000.

The large white frame building was used by the parish as its social center. Tables, chairs and dishes used for parish picnics, as well as equipment for other social events, were stored in the edifice.

The Patton Volunteer Fire Co. was called about 2:30 a. m., and responded promptly. However, the volunteers were hampered by a lack of water, and when the supply in the pumper's auxiliary tanks was exhausted, they were unable to save the structure from destruction.

A party had been held in the hall on Friday evening, and firemen stated that they were of the belief the fire resulted from an overheated chimney. The building was located some distance from the church and rectory, neither of which were damaged.

Rev. Father Edward J. Waters, pastor of St. Augustine Church, said the loss was partly covered by insurance. Plans are at present being made for the erection of a new church hall.

Until such time as a new hall is constructed, the regularly scheduled church social functions, including those Friday night of each week, will be held in the large quonset hut in St. Augustine owned by Thomas Sheehan.

This week an \$1,100 heating system is being installed in the hut. The church also has purchased fluorescent lighting fixtures for use in the building and new tables and benches have been secured. Father Reichert wishes to thank all those who have aided in the project.

Rev. G. M. Watt Ordained Friday

Has Charge of Parishes in Patton, Barnesboro

Rev. Gilbert M. Watt, deacon in charge of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Patton and the St. Thomas Church in Barnesboro, was ordained a minister last Friday. The ceremonies took place at the Trinity Church in Rochester, Pa., with Rt. Rev. Austin Pardue, Bishop of Pittsburgh, presiding.

Rev. Watt has been the spiritual leader of the two Northern Cambria County churches since last July when Rev. William I. Cost, Jr., was transferred to Indiana.

Mark said the deep mine produced 80,000 tons of coal in 1948, but that its capacity is "much greater."

Another deep mine, he said on Tuesday, was signed during the day to bring to mine the number of District 2 firms which have agreed to the "Kentucky formula."

With the exception of the company recently announced, other firms have been independent operators. Total yearly tonnage in the group signed amounts to 400,000 tons.

Mines which have signed agreements will be permitted to work four days, or five if they wish, during the next two weeks. The District 2 president states. All other mines will work only on Tuesday and Wednesday, due to Christmas and New Year's legal holidays.

Mr. Mark said three companies have scheduled meetings with him. The agreement offered to the operators calls for a 95c daily wage hike, a boost in the royalty from 20c to 35c a ton and the sale and volume clause contained in the old contract.

Eagles Planning 2 Holiday Parties

Patton Aerie 1244, Fraternal Order of Eagles, is planning two parties within the next week and a half.

The first of these will be a gala children's Christmas party set for this Friday afternoon at the Grand Theatre in Patton. In addition to the presence of Santa Claus and a treat, a special movie will be shown.

On New Year's Eve the lodge will open 1950 with its annual New Year's Party for members and their friends.

FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROLS

In the 13th Century in Italy, Franciscan Friars sang the first Christmas Carols. The simple beauty and genial mirthfulness of their songs have become part of the spirit of Christmas wherever it is celebrated today.

NORTH CAMBRIA PERSONALITIES—NO. 40

Dick Rowland Once 'Devil' On Courier

Back in November of 1893, just a bit later than the time that Patton was incorporated as a borough, Richard Rowland, better known to most of his host of friends as "Dick" came to Patton, with his parents, Richard Rowland Sr. and his wife, Mary. Since that time Mr. Rowland has lived continuously in Patton, has been a miner all his life until his retirement a few years ago, and has been qualified to do all occupa-