

Pittsburgh, Soft Coal District, Prohibits Use Of Smoky Fuel

Our Fair City Shies From Placing a Limit On High Volatile Sale

Pennsylvania Metropolis Adopts Strict St. Louis Plan for Curbing Long-Time Nuisance

Editorial, Page 14

Times Special Service

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Sept. 28—This is a bold city. Located in the center of a great soft coal district it dared to outlaw the burning of that soft coal in a way that would create smoke.

Indoor trolley when it thinks of doing the same thing. The Hoosier capital's proposed new anti-smoke ordinance dances warily away from any attempt to limit the amount of high volatile (smoky) coal which can be sold.

Pittsburgh grew tired, finally, of its title "Smoky City" and adopted the strict St. Louis plan. It passed the ordinance in 1941 but delayed putting it into effect until after the war.

Regulations Extended On Oct. 1, 1946, commercial and industrial establishments went under the regulations. A year later the regulations were extended to cover all fuel consumers.

This was not done without a fight.

Bituminous coal producers, with mines surrounding the city, expressed fear they would lose their local market. They and the United Mine Workers had been represented on the Citizens Commission which studied the ordinance. They had agreed to the program. They still said they would go along, but counseled delay until domestic consumers could buy the new stoves and furnaces which would burn bituminous coal smokelessly.

As the deadline for private homes approached, the coal producers, haulers and miners began calling for another postponement. Pointing out that mine strikes and railroad car shortages had made all solid fuel hard to get, they predicted a fuel famine in Pittsburgh if an attempt was made to enforce the law.

Even the friends of the smoke law were fearful. Pittsburgh had always obtained much of its solid fuel direct from the mines, by truck. The smokeless fuel would have to come in by rail, to the relatively few railroads.

Coke made in the district was a legal fuel but practically all supplies had been contracted for by booming industry. Disco, a semi-coke made in the district, could not be obtained in sufficient quantities. The gas companies, short of supplies, began refusing new customers.

But no fuel shortage developed even during a severe cold wave in midwinter. Low-volatile bituminous coal was brought in from central Pennsylvania, anthracite and anthracite briquettes from eastern Pennsylvania. The available supplies of coke and Disco filled in the gaps.

Pittsburgh residents complained about the "new" fuel saying it "wouldn't burn" but most of the trouble was due to unfamiliarity with the low-volatile coal.

Some soft coal bootlegging was encountered and a minor politician organized an anti-smoke law group to fight for repeal of the law.

Complaints Diminished

The Mayor and City Council stood firm. The Smoke Bureau and the anthracite producers sent men out to show residents how to fire the fuel. And, gradually, the complaints diminished.

Then toward the end of last winter, the Smoke Bureau discovered a fuel which it believes will whip most of last season's problems.

It is a 50-50 mixture of anthracite and soft coal. Because of the low volatile content of the anthracite, the volatile matter in the mixture is kept below the minimum of 20 per cent that the law specifies. The anthracite apparently helps to consume what smoke is produced by the bituminous.

More important, to the consumer, is the fact that a mixture containing small sizes of anthracite costs only a little more than years.



TRICKLE—John Dugle, a fifth-grader at Lowell School, tries to get a drink from the school's fountain but the low water pressure sends up only a trickle. The plumbing is said to be at fault and a new fountain has been ordered.

Seek Extension Ever since the ordinance was adopted, smoke control advocates have been trying to extend control to Pittsburgh's 129 independent municipalities in the suburbs. The state legislature was persuaded to give the County Commissioners power to enact one law covering the entire county.

At the present Pittsburgh residents are determined that their ordinance shall not be undermined by less strict regulations in the county. Thousands of citizens, led by the United Smoke Council, are prepared to defend their ordinance against any threat.

The railroads in Pittsburgh, after fighting the ordinance off and on for several years, now are going all-out in co-operation.

As fast as they can obtain the equipment, one after another is converting to diesel power. These conversions, and others made by big industry, have helped to bring about the startling change that has been made in Pittsburgh's atmosphere.

It has been estimated that approximately \$77 million is being spent by business and industry to put themselves in a position to comply with the smoke ordinance.

Many domestic consumers are turning to gas for heating.

The Bureau of Smoke Prevention, staffed by 12 inspectors (there is no Air Pollution Board in Indianapolis), has made a number of arrests for violations of the law, but so far no householder has been prosecuted.

The bureau has concentrated its efforts on trying to prevent the delivery of soft coal to consumers without equipment to burn it smokelessly.

No arrests have been confined to dealers and a few larger fuel consumers who have persisted in violating the law. One of the latter, a laundry proprietor, finally saw the light when the bureau was taking him before a magistrate every day and getting the maximum fine of \$100 for him.

Friend of Col. Winn

Stiffs at Sick Report

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 29 (UPI)—A close friend and business associate of Col. Matt Winn today scoffed at a syndicated columnist's report that the 86-year-old president of Churchill Downs was in poor health.

Sam McMeekin, secretary of Churchill Downs, said that "the colonel" is in excellent health. He was out looking at the Downs yesterday and I talked to him for more than an hour."

Col. Winn, guiding spirit of the Kentucky Derby, was in New York recently for a minor ear operation, but Mr. McMeekin said he was not laid up at all.

Friend of Col. Winn

The body of Albert Rubush, Indianapolis Fire Department captain who drowned while fishing in a lake near the Crane Naval Depot last Sunday, was recovered by Navy personnel today.

Capt. Rubush was drowned after the small boat in which he and several companions were riding capsized.

Capt. Rubush, whose home was at 1153 Olive St., was stationed at Fire House No. 3 and had been a member of the department 16 years.

That is what forced the principal to close school after the second day. The well pump was remodeled and it now is able to pump water over the larger building. But as yet there is not an abundance of pressure.

The pump cannot operate all of the 14 toilets which have been installed in the new rest rooms so only eight are in use.

One outlet of the downstairs water fountain gives of a healthy stream of drinking water. Long lines of children wait for a drink at this one outlet because the will have to be dug.

68 Pupils Still Out in 'Strike' At School 32

Parents Protest Mixed Race Enrollment

The "strike" at School 32 began to dissolve today as a sizable number of the "hold-out" children trekked back to their classes.

At the height of the strike last week 133 students were absent. Yesterday the number still absent totaled more than 100. Today only 68 were absent.

Parents had held their children out of school in protest of the mixed white and Negro enrollment which began Sept. 17.

Continue 'Hands Off'

School authorities continued their "hands off" policy toward the parents of the remaining 68 children in the hope they would be back in school within the next day or so.

Meanwhile, opponents of segregation in the Indianapolis schools began marshalling their forces for an all-out campaign to put through their plan of integration before election.

The integration plan advocates mixing school enrollments regardless of race.

The school board last night declined to alter its present policy of segregation in part of the city school system, but leaders of the movement for "total integration" appeared optimistic.

100 at Hearing

One speaker for integration declared at the hearing last night, "There appears to be a growing feeling against segregation among influential groups in the city."

More than 100 persons jammed their way into the school board's meeting room for the hearing. Patrons of School 32 presented a petition to the board.

The petition asked one of three things: That Negro students now at School 32 be transferred to School 36, or that the school be given over exclusively to Negro enrollment, or that all schools in the city be opened to Negroes.

The board took no action on the petition.

Henry Richardson Jr., attorney representing patrons opposing segregation in the School 43 district, presented the board with what he called a "blue print of integration." His plan called for:

ONE: A definite committed and declared policy of non-discrimination and segregation based neither upon race nor class nor religion.

TWO: A strong and efficient superintendent and administrative staff.

THREE: A uniform redistricting of the whole public school system, inclusive of high schools, wherein all children within their district shall attend the grade or high school within their district. No exceptions shall be made on the basis of race or religion but only on the basis of student objective and specialty.

Fountains Ordered

Mr. Ginder says new fountains have been ordered.

The building has been completely rewired. Electricians are finishing up their work on this detail this week.

In the basement a new kitchen is being installed. All the necessary equipment for a modern lunch room is there but plumbers are needed to make connections.

The contract has been let for the plumbing but workmen have not appeared to do the work.

An electrician on the job yesterday complained of the lack of co-operation in the work. He said part of the electrical wiring installed this summer was done over because of a misunderstanding.

Mr. Ginder said he is not at all

sure the present well will be able to supply the needs of the building when all work is completed.

He said it is possible a new well will have to be dug.

Board members gave no indica-

tion of what they thought of the plan.

C. L. Farrington, president of the board, summed up his group's attitude when he declared, "There are just so many schools in the city. We are faced with a problem of distribution, and we are trying to use the facilities to their best advantage. I think the city is to be congratulated in that it has a board which is trying to be fair."

At this point muffled laughter broke out in the crowded room.

Mr. Farrington continued, "I know there is a difference of opinion as to our trying to be fair, but we are attempting to represent the whole city."

In other action the board passed a resolution to establish a new grade school at the present location of School 77, a temporary structure, at 401 N. Arlington Ave.

Withholds Statement

Virgil Stinebaugh, superintendent of schools, said he could make no statement today as to the policy which the school au-

thorities would follow if the pupils of School 32 continued to be kept out of school. He added, "Any statement I made now might be misunderstood."

School officials pointed out the parents are violating the state truancy laws in keeping their children out of school.

Gerald C. Furdy, Indianapolis attorney and spokesman for the parents who oppose the mixed enrollment policy at School 32, said his group would continue its attempt to force the School Board to adopt a program of integration throughout the entire system.

"We must not fear our neighbors' strength or we will lose our independence," the marshal said.

Russia is Iran's biggest neighbor.

Iran Shuffles Army For Emergency

TEHRAN, Sept. 29 (UPI)—A major reshuffle of the Iranian army—designed to prepare it for an emergency—was reported yesterday.

Chief of Staff Marshal All Razmaras warned a large gathering last night that oil-rich Iran would be one of the battlegrounds of World War III.

"We must not fear our neighbors' strength or we will lose our independence," the marshal said.

Russia is Iran's biggest neighbor.

STRIKE PEACE SOUGHT

COLUMBUS, Ind., Sept. 29 (UPI)—A government mediator will meet with representatives of five plants of the Nobiliti-Sparks Co. and three AFL unions today in an attempt to iron out labor-management differences that touched off a strike by some 1200 production employees.

See to it

Mr. Heaton will see to it in the firemen's rate for the deficit of men.

The Police having the same

Irish, secretary reported a deficit this year.

However, he already has a bond issue

shortage.

Lists

If the full revenues are

for the Fire Department.

Heaton said the

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for the Fire Department.

The revenues will be \$

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The revenues

will be \$

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1000 to a deficit of