

Too Much Gravy on Gravy Boat

Squander State Mine Funds, Critics Squelched By Fear

Union Organized at Abandoned Coal Pits, Lewis Revolt Simmers

(Continued From Page One) tions, especially for district organizers who did the chartering and were responsible for the pension and welfare payments.

Once a month the old-timers who hadn't worked for as far back as 1915 or 1920 come to routine union meetings to conform with regulations, mainly to have their cards checked. But there are no grievances in the Fifty Me as the boys reminisce and return to their homes in the care of the miners.

8 Active, 36 on Union Roll

The state is honeycombed with other "old men's locals," as they are known in the coal fields. In all cases the union membership lists are considerably higher than the active miners employed.

There's the mysterious Catspaw Mine on Frate Woolsey's place near Winslow, operated by Bill Northier a year ago when the charter, No. 2091, was installed by organizer Ernie Goad. When there were eight active men in the mines, they spent most of their adult lives working in stores and on farms.

Practically all of the miners who got token jobs to enable them to get union cards and the resultant pensions were employed by small operators, whose mines are locally called "gopher" or "dog" holes.

The gopher hole operators defend their position. Why shouldn't they help out old friends, neighbors, employees? A Terre Haute gopher mine operator, through whose mine have gone at least eight pensions for old-timers employed years ago, said he wouldn't refuse any of them.

"They deserve it," he declared. A Boonville mine owner said land for over \$50,000 to a coal company and retired on \$60-a-

month pension, swearing that they had worked for him in years past.

"If I could help a fellow I would. It wasn't my business to question his eligibility. That was the union's business. I've helped lots of fellows who wanted me to sign an affidavit that once upon a time they had worked in a coal mine, now closed."

In some mines, men who hadn't wanted unionization in past years, willingly organized when the pension fund became activated so they could be eligible even though it meant closing the mine.

An example is the Black Betty Mine near Brazil. Forty to 50 men had worked in it under a "cooperative" plan since 1930. When

Extravagance, Inefficiency

In every community are scores of examples of undeserving who get pension and welfare benefits. These are the cases rank and filers in the mines criticize and blame the fund's administrators for extravagance, inefficiency, mismanagement and for letting politics creep in.

A Clay County ex-miner had run a grocery 18 years after quitting the mines. Last year he sold his grocery as a successful business, took a job in a gopher hole for 60 days, got a pension and retired. He is reputedly worth between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

One man in Vigo County put in the last 20 years with the mines. He had a hernia but he was able to work. He legitimately received his pension and got his hernia operation while in retirement—at a cost of \$100.

A Pike County miner sold his land for over \$50,000 to a coal company and retired on \$60-a-

month welfare payments.

He was employed as a teamster from 1930 to 1934 on mine property that he had sold to a coal company, contingent upon his getting a job in addition to the price of the land.

A Pike County ex-miner owned a grocery store for 16 years. He got a job, had his card reinstated at a gopher hole, got \$80 welfare, died a few months ago and his widow now draws the payments. In addition, all funeral expenses were paid.

In addition to the monthly pension and welfare payments, a provision in the regulations permits miners and their families to receive medical care. A Terre Haute doctor said:

"Welfare sure stirred up a lot of activity around here. Especially in false teeth and glasses. Some appendectomy free of charge."

Revolt Festers Under Surface

For the first time in the history of Indiana mining, the miners are beginning to wonder about John L. Lewis. In many cases, the doubt has grown to an open distrust of high United Mine Workers operations.

Individually, some of them will talk to a reporter—but not two miners, neither one will talk.

Majority of them believe that the 20-cent assessment on a ton of coal is sufficient if administered efficiently. They do not want a higher assessment with the resultant increase per ton of coal.

Elderly miners in many cases refuse to quit their jobs and retire because they feel the pension system is here today and gone tomorrow.

Young miners are worried because they feel there will be nothing to retire on if the present system of disbursing pensions and welfare is continued.

Miners refuse bifocals. They say they want two pairs of glasses that if somebody else is paying for it they want only the best.

"Miners' wives present a big problem. Ordinarily they'd come in and get a prescription, be told there was nothing wrong with them and pay the fee, and they would be satisfied. Now they are back every week demanding attention for imaginary ailments."

Hernia and appendectomy operations are the most common in surgical cases. Miners who think the welfare fund is one and should be continued—have no quarrel with the surgical cases.

"Miners in our community would welcome an investigation and all the stink that you pour on us," said two miners at Linton.

"We're good union men but we've also taken out our own retirement and insurance. The future of the miners' fund is too shaky. We should have some kind of an insurance company setup to handle the fund. There is considerable doubt among the young fellows that there will be any pensions when they retire."

"If a Miner Opens His Mouth . . ."

A 70-year-old miner at Linton has put in more than 20 years in the mines.

"I'm a good union man, too, and have been all the years I've been working, but this setup is the rottenest thing I've ever been through. I'd like to stir up something but if I did, they'd jerk my card in a minute. For a miner who opens his mouth, life in the mines can be hell."

"I'm not going to quit until I know there's going to be a pension. I ask other old fellows when you are going on a pension and they say when it's secure. They ask me when are you going to retire and I tell them right back at you."

"Somebody ought to stir this thing up. It's a cinch the unions won't because they're afraid to. They'd like to. Trouble is we've got nothing but a dictator ship down here."

Another Linton miner said: "The miners certainly are not in favor of reckless spending of the fund. But they know it's going to be spent some place, so why not Linton? It's just like back in the WPA days. We're taking everything we can get."

Young miners are worried because they feel there will be nothing to retire on if the present system of disbursing pensions and welfare is continued.

These are the sentiments you hear as you travel about the midwest. . . . "Lewis has done as much for us as a mortal human could, but really he oughtn't to be handling the welfare fund. . . . John's just human, he made some mistakes. The fund will come back one of these days and we'll all have profited by our mistakes. . . . Control over the minefields is just like Hitler's and Mussolini's. Only here there is no underground. Everybody is afraid."

"Political organizations are being maintained through the fund for a bunch of labor politicians. . . . The fund will have to be aired and very soon. . . . Lewis has built up a private physical and political army that can't be penetrated. . . . The money that has been spent for worthy old miners and their families is justified, but the fund tried to take in everybody. It went back too far into the past for too many people. . . ."

Spectators' Faces Mirror Their Thoughts



A study of emotions at a traffic accident scene. . . . Bystanders watch Patrolman Robert Plaske give first aid to Lee Feltmore, 28, of 350 Hanson Ave. A motorcycle passenger, he received head injuries when the vehicle skidded on an oil spot at Washington and West Sts.

Heat Wave's Over Cash, Recognition Await 'Good Old Days' Winners

Readers Invited to Submit Anecdotes For Times Popular Color Comic Feature

How many times have you told someone about "the good old days?"

Now here's your chance to tell The Times about some "good old days" incident . . . and win yourself national recognition . . . and cash.

Your best anecdote about Indiana folklore or Hoosier customs is sought for Erwin L. Hess' popular color comic feature, "THE GOOD OLD DAYS."

Rutty Roads Are Daily Peril To School Children, Says Bus Driver

Chukholes Cost \$900 in Repairs During First Year of New Vehicle's Operation

A new school bus rolled along a paved highway, covering its daily 68-mile route. As the bus gained speed, a front wheel sheared from its lug. The front of the bus sagged and dropped at a crazy angle. But there were no injuries.

Clarence Toler, RR. 18, Box 587, was driving the vehicle, delivering some of his Ben Davis High School pupils to class from Clermont. His greatest fear is that the incident will repeat itself because of the ruts and bumps in Girls School Road.

For about a mile the bus dodges between the holes in the road between 10th and Wall Sts. At two points it is forced off the roadway to clear some of the deeper holes. Private vehicles follow the same procedure.

Sam Alex Lookout House manager, said, "Miss Leeds' engagement at the Lookout House was only tentative. She was submitted to us and has been turned down."

Miss Leeds was on probation after she and Actor Robert Mitchum spent 55 days in jail on a marijuana charge. The judge ordered her out of California after her arrest on a charge of intoxication.

3 Cardinals to Open Holy Doors for Holy Year

VATICAN CITY, Nov. 12 (UPI)—High Vatican sources said today that Pope Pius XII will convene a secret consistory Dec. 12 for the appointment of three cardinals—legate to open the Holy Doors of Three Basilicas for the 1950 Holy Year.

These sources said that Alessandro Cardinal Verde will be appointed to open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Mary Major. Clemente Cardinal Micara will be made legate for opening the Holy Door of St. John the Lateran, and Eugenio Cardinal Tisserant for the Holy Door of St. Paul outside the wall.

"I'm afraid the road in that condition is going to cause another accident," Mr. Toler declared. "Only minor patching jobs have been done in the past 10 years. The road is in worse shape now than anytime in the past 25 years."

"Drivers can't dodge all the holes," Mr. Toler continued. "They are forced to use low gear over most sections of the one-time blacktop."

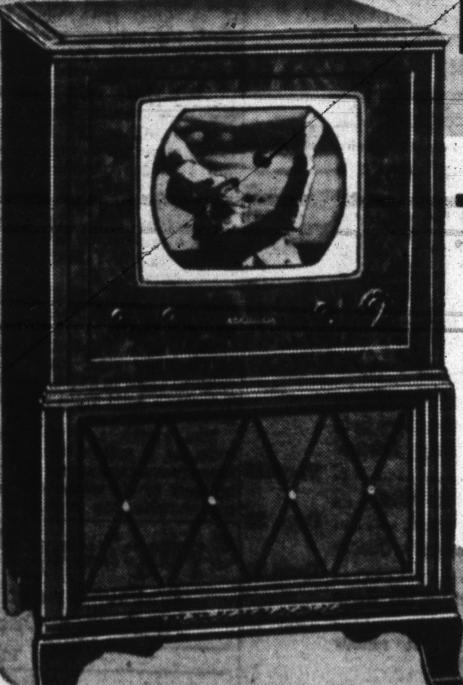
After delivering his high school pupils, Mr. Toler makes a return trip over the route hauling grade school children to classes in Clermont.



Forced to the edge of Girls School Rd. to dodge chukholes, this bus driver fears accidents resulting from the "beating" given vehicles by the rough roadway.

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Registration Date Set
Registration for the Fourth Annual Indiana Aviation Conference will be held at 10 a. m. Nov. 16, in the Severin Hotel. The three-day conference is sponsored by the State Aeronautics Commission, CAA, Purdue University and Indiana Aviation Trade Association.

Indiana Flying Farmers will hold their annual meeting and clinic during the Purdue University Agricultural Conference Dec. 30-31.

Hopes for Color TV Soon
WASHINGTON, Nov. 12 (UPI)—Chairman Edwin C. Johnson (D. Colo.) of the Senate Commerce Committee said tonight he hopes the Federal Communications Commission will soon set official standards for color television.

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