

Miners Pensions May Become Pattern for Other Industries

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Some time in September, \$100-a-month pension checks will start going out to retired soft coal miners who are members of John L. Lewis's United Mine Workers who are 62 years of age or older, and who have had 20 years of service in the coal mines. Some retired miners who are 64 or over may be eligible to receive additional payments of up to \$2500 apiece, for the pension payments are to be made retroactive to May 29, 1946.

Whatever the amount of the initial pension, these payments will mark the start of the second phase of a major industrial welfare plan. The miners are now receiving certain emergency distress benefits. Survivors of miners who die receive \$1000 death benefits. Still to be put in operation is a plan for complete medical and hospital care. It is hoped to set this up before the end of the year.

All this welfare is to be paid for out of a trust fund raised by royalties of 20 cents a ton paid by the coal operator—and eventually by the consumer—on every ton of coal mined. On the basis of 500,000,000 tons annual production, this would be \$100,000,000 a year.

Other industries watch. The miners' welfare plan is being closely watched in other industries, as a possible pattern for expanding social security coverage through private business insurance of through the government. Only four unions have now gained similar employer-paid welfare plans—the Musicians, Clothing workers, Garment workers and the United Auto workers employed by Kaiser-Frazer.

Only UMW members are eligible to receive payments. Non-union men won't benefit. For the present, only bituminous miners are covered, as the anthracite industry pension plan has not been completed.

In computing what constitutes 20 years of service to qualify a miner for his pension, there is considerable leeway. The average miner works only 200 days a year because of mine shut-downs, seasonal layoffs, injuries and similar unemployment factors.

New regulations covering operation of the pension fund therefore provide that a year's service may be computed in any one of four ways: 1—At least two quarters (six months) employment by a coal operator in any calendar year, with earnings of at least \$50 in each quarter. 2—Two quarters employment by the UMW, which recruits many of its organizers and other help from local unions. 3—Two quarters in the armed services. 4—Two quarters in which the miner was listed as an employee of a coal operator, but during which the employee was unable to work because of injury.

Retired miners receiving pensions may take employment in industries other than coal mining without forfeiting pensions. A retired miner may go back to work in the coal industry temporarily, but if he does he will lose his pension for every month in which he does any work.

Retired miners aged 65 or over, of course, are eligible to receive Social Security old age insurance from the government, in addition to their UMW pensions. Social Security insurance now pays from \$30 a month up to \$50 a month for a retired worker whose wife is living. So a married miner of over 65 may get up to \$150 a month.

How many miners will apply for pensions is unknown. Miners are now paid from \$75 to \$80 a week. It is expected that many older miners will prefer to work for this higher income than to retire on what amounts to one-third full pay.

Inauguration of the Lewis pension plan marks the end of a three-year fight. Lewis first proposed the welfare fund in 1945, and it was written into a contract signed with the government. Royalty payments began at the rate of five cents a ton.

Mrs. Marie V. Moon Of Wilbur Passes Away

Mrs. Marie Valas Moon, 62, well-known resident of Wilbur, died Saturday at Mercy hospital, following a long period of ill health.

Mrs. Moon was born May 6, 1886, at Clarkston, Neb. When she was a small girl the family moved to Seattle, Wash. She was married to Daniel E. Moon in Seattle for five years at Canyonville, and for the past 15 years she has made her home at Wilbur. Mr. Moon passed away in 1937.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. John Najbart, Cadott, Wis., and eleven nieces and nephews. The body has been removed to the Long & Orr Mortuary and funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Defective heating equipment caused 47,500 fires in a single year, and damages of more than \$35,000,000.

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(NEA Telephoto) Robert Nishiyama, Japanese ex-kamikaze pilot pictured as he arrived in Berkeley, Calif., enroute to an eastern college on scholarship provided by Robert Johnstone, of Downingtown, Pa. Johnstone, GI who was killed in Philippines campaign, bequeathed his \$10,000 army insurance to a Japanese student as his contribution to a more peaceful world.

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LOCAL NEWS

Theta Rho Club to Meet—Alpha Zeta Theta Rho Girls Club will meet Tuesday night at 7:30 o'clock at the I. O. O. F. hall.

Meeting Postponed—The Benson P. T. A. meeting planned for tonight has been postponed until the evening of October 18 at 8 o'clock at the schoolhouse.

Grange to Meet—Melrose Grange will meet Tuesday night at 8 o'clock at the hall. Refreshments will be served. All members are asked to be present.

Bethel to Meet—Job's Daughters Bethel No. 8 will meet at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening at the Masonic temple. Members and those with proper Masonic affiliations are invited.

Workshop Tuesday—The Roseburg Arts and Crafts Club workshop will be open Tuesday night from 7 to 9 o'clock at the Junior High School in room 310. Members are invited.

Visiting Niece—Mrs. Nellie Boyce of Joplin, Mo., and her daughter, Mrs. Ted Evans of Richfield, Calif., are visiting at the home of Mrs. Boyce's niece, Mrs. William Cunningham, at Camas Valley.

Ladies Aid to Meet—The Eden Ladies Aid of the Elgarose Lutheran Church will hold a no-hostess meeting Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Cerenus Anderson on the Doerner road. Members are requested to each bring a guest.

Study Circle to Meet—The Northside Bible Study Circle will meet at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Paul Blaskey at 408 Rowe street under the leadership of Mrs. Edith S. Ackert.

Meeting Postponed—On account of the American Legion Auxiliary special meeting called for Wednesday night, the Past Presidents Parley meeting has been postponed until October 27, when it will be held at 8 o'clock desert supper at the home of Mrs. L. A. Rhoden, Garden Tract Homes, Calkins road.

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Visiting at Clayton Home—Mr. and Mrs. Paul Stephens of Stamford, Tex., who have been traveling extensively in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, California and Oregon, are now guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Clayton of Myrtle Creek. Mrs. Stephens and Mrs. Clayton are cousins.

Attend Game—Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Parr and son, Donald, of Roseburg were among the Roseburg residents attending the Medford-Roseburg football game in Medford Friday night. The Parrs remained over the weekend to visit relatives.

Back From Vacation—Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Reizenstein have returned to their home on Fowler street, following two weeks vacationing at Winchester Bay. Mr. Reizenstein is telegraph editor of the Roseburg News-Review and Mrs. Reizenstein is librarian of the Roseburg Public Library.

Meeting Called—A meeting of George Starnett Camp and Auxiliary to U. S. W. V. has been called for Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Taylor at 116 West Mosher street to make plans for the year.

Navy Mothers to Meet—The Navy Mothers Club will meet tonight at 8 o'clock at the home of the president, Mrs. Cora Rogan, 1010 Hamilton street. Members and those eligible to membership are urged to be present.

Visit Over Weekend—Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy Inman and children, Janet, Larry and Kathy, of Roseburg spent the weekend in Eugene visiting Mr. Inman's father, C. L. Inman, who is a patient at the hospital, where he has been very ill for the last two weeks. They also visited the latter's sister, Mrs. Burns Griffin, of Phoenix, Ariz., who is in Eugene on visit. Before returning to Roseburg, they visited in Springfield with Mrs. Inman's relatives.

Clean-Up Meeting—The Garden Valley Women's Club will hold a clean-up meeting at the clubhouse Thursday, Sept. 23, beginning at 10 a.m. The executive board has requested all members to attend and to bring their own sack lunch and cleaning materials.

Attend Game—Mr. and Mrs. Ed Radigan attended the Oregon State-U.S.C. football game at Corvallis Saturday.

Visit Here—Mr. and Mrs. Bob Richards of Portland were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Shoemaker at Winchester over the weekend. Mr. Richards is the brother of Mrs. Shoemaker.

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