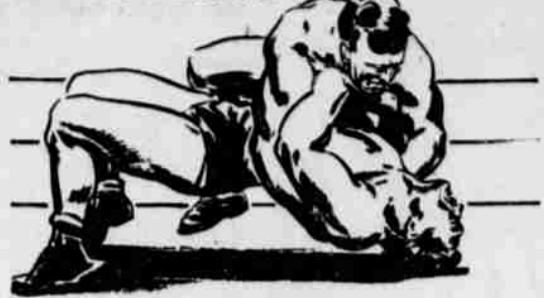


WRESTLING



Opening Event
LEO KARLINKO vs. YAQUI JOE

Semi-Final Event
YAQUI KID vs. PIERRE LaBELLE

Main Event
AL SZASZ vs. TONY ROSS

Roseburg Armory—8:30 P. M.—October 22

Lewis Wins Much For Miners But Coal Loses Ground To Competing Fuels

By BRUCE BOSSAT

Since 1940 there have been 17 strikes in the coal industry. As many as four have occurred in one year. What has been the overall effect of this series of walkouts?

John L. Lewis claims that in that span miners' wage rates have risen from 88 cents an hour to \$1.95 an hour. He points also to a take-home pay of \$73 a week this year as compared with \$24.71 in 1940.

In addition, miners are now promised \$100 a month retirement pensions and are entitled to health and hospital benefits. They get paid vacations that add about \$100 to their individual annual income.

Unquestionably the miners have outstripped other industrial workers in benefits gained during this interval. For example, the average hourly pay boost for all factory employes from 1940 to 1949 is about 30 cents less than the hike won by miners.

But there's another side to the story. Both the Wall Street Journal and the United States News recently have analyzed what is happening to the coal business as a result of its labor difficulties.

That coal has long been losing ground to competing fuels like oil and natural gas has of course long been known. Probably a considerable part of this market loss was inevitable.

Yet much of coal's decline in the fuel market—especially in recent years—can be attributed directly to the powerful impact of the United Mine Workers on the industry. The price of coal to the consumer is now double that of 1940. The labor cost that goes into the mining of coal is nearly twice that of 1942.

Although price rises have been general in the war and postwar period, coal has tended to race ahead of other products. Thus hitherto more expensive competing fuels have come to look steadily more attractive.

There is more to it, however, than just higher costs. The Wall Street Journal finds the big factor for these days is uncertainty over coal supplies. Utilities, railroads, big industrial users simply don't wish to risk any more the prospect that their fuel will suddenly be shut off.

The constant refrain: "I'm fed up with the uncertainty of depending on a fuel the flow of which John L. Lewis turns on and off like a water faucet."

One industrialist says 90 percent of today's big construction jobs call for installation of oil burner equipment, as against 30 percent in 1939. Coal men say oil-electric diesel locomotives have killed a market for 25,000,000 tons of coal a year. Oil use by utilities, though still far below coal, jumped 75 percent in the past year. Gas and oil are heavy favorites as home fuels.

Coal still furnishes roughly half the energy requirements of the U.S. economy. But the deep inroads of other fuels have slashed demand for coal seriously. Lewis found that even dropping to a three-day work week did not cut sharply into stockpiles. Only now that he has gone onto a "no day" work week are industries beginning to feel a pinch.

No one is likely to suggest that miners should have been denied reasonable benefits while other segments of labor were gaining. But the facts raise the question whether Lewis may not have acted from too narrow motives without due regard for the future of the industry that must support his men. He has tried to move fast, to lead the pack. In so doing, he may have so harmed the coal business competitively that the miners in the end may not realize the full value of the benefits they have gained.

McNary Dam Workers Learn Russian Speech

McNARY, Ore.—(AP)—The workers on McNary dam are preparing for any eventuality. Even Russians.

The General Extension division, in cooperation with the corps of engineers, has started a Russian class, under the tutelage of Agu Onapuu, Salem, a Russian refugee who has been teaching here, too.

YEGG SCHOOL FOR COPS

TACOMA, Oct. 21.—(AP)—The Tacoma police school will operate behind closed doors next week and students will be carefully scrutinized before admittance.

The subject: How to pick locks and work safe combinations. Arthur Duncan, a Spokane expert, will teach the local policemen.

Lily Pons Raps Paris Fashions, "Dirty" N. Y.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 21.—(AP)—Paris fashions, spinsters opera stars and New York City took a beating Thursday from Lily Pons, tiny coloratura soprano.

In almost the same breath, she adopted San Francisco as her own.

"This is my pet city," she said. Then in lovely fashion she gave out with these other observations: "New York City is a crowded, dirty madhouse!"

"Paris fashions—zut! First they are too long—now they are too short! I think the American women wear them best. They have the most beautiful shapes. Me, I'm too petite, always in the middle."



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Killer Of Brother Weeps At Inquest, Then Faints

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 21.—(AP)—A coroner's jury couldn't decide whether the "mercy shot" killing of 10-year-old Robert Elliott by his brother Richard, 15, was accidental or homicidal.

The jury recommended that Richard be held for further investigation.

Richard, who didn't testify, wept through the inquest and fainted as he left the room, tumbling partway down a staircase.

He was revived by his father, Dr. Harold M. Elliott.

Juvenile officer Kenneth Carpenter related the story Richard

ENERGETIC BAPTISTS
BLOOMING GROVE, Tex.—(AP)—Jack Glenn, businessman-farmer, offered the First Baptist church a bale of cotton if the members would pick it.

They did. A bale is worth approximately \$145.

had told him earlier: that Richard shot his brother accidentally while showing him a pistol and then said: "He was moaning, I just couldn't stand it, so I shot him again to end his agony."

Carpenter added that West Los Angeles boys are selling and buying guns "like hotcakes."

Smashes AA Window Because Denied Loan

TORONTO, Oct. 21.—(AP)—William Selig, 40, was charged with malicious damage after police said he threw a rock through a window in the downtown office of Alcoholics Anonymous. He had a partly-full bottle of wine in his pocket when arrested.

Selig told police he tried to borrow a quarter at the club and "they wouldn't even give me a nickel."



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