



Miners Return to Work—Miners line up early at the Pittsburgh Coal company's mine near Liberty, Pa., for their first trip underground since the signing of the new coal contract. Full production in the area will await formal ratification of the new contract at a local union meeting. (Acme Telephoto.)

No Pat Answer on Whether Miners Won or Lost in Layoffs

By JAMES MARLOW

Washington, March 8 (AP)—There's no pat answer to this one: How much pay did the coal miners lose by their lay-offs? And how long will it take them now, with the increase they won, to catch up?

There's no pat answer simply because miners are not people who always, except when striking, work 5-day week, 52 weeks a year.

They've been away from the pits about 100 working days since last June 30 when their contract ended because they went on two full strikes and for many weeks, on union orders, worked only three days a week. But this doesn't mean they would have worked those 100 days if there had been no dispute with the mine owners.

The miner's picture is not that cut and dried. President Truman and a number of senators have said the coal industry is sick. An operator spokesman denies it.

The demand for coal has gone down. More and more home owners and businesses have turned to oil and gas. For example:

In 1944, the peak of wartime travel, the railroads used 132,000,000 tons of coal. Rail travel has decreased since then and the roads have bought increasing numbers of oil-driven engines. In 1948 they used 95 million tons.

At the same time, because of technical improvements, a miner can turn out more coal than he used to.

In 1936 a miner produced an average of 4 1/2 tons a day. Now he can produce nearly seven tons.

So, while the demand for coal drops, the miner's ability to meet the demand has increased. He can produce more in shorter time.

If a miner worked five days a week, 52 weeks a year, he'd work 260 days a year. Actually, the number of his work days has been decreasing.

His average number of working days a year is edging down to the neighborhood of 200 a year. Example:

In 1936—199 days; 1937—193 days; 1938—162 days; 1939—when Europe's war started—178 days; 1940, when our defense program got started—202 days.

The miner's working days increased then to a peak of 278 in 1944, which was the peak of the war effort. Then in 1945—261; 1946, when big strikes in other industries cut down coal demands—214; 1947—when industry picked up and we sent a lot of coal to Europe—234 days; in 1948, when Europe's need for coal dropped off—217 days. There are no exact figures for 1949.

So, instead of working five days a week for 52 weeks, the miners, with their 217 work days in 1948, worked only about 43 five-day weeks.

At that rate, if they worked five days of one week, three another, two another, for 52 weeks they could wind up with the equivalent 43 five-day weeks of work.

Since last June 30, because of their dispute with the mine owners, the miners have worked many three-day weeks and then no weeks at all when they went on full strike.

But, for the reasons given above, it is impossible to say how much of that lost time would not have been lost if there had been no dispute with the owners.

In fairness, keep that in mind in reading what follows. Suppose there had been enough work for the miners to keep them busy every working day since last June 30 when their old contract ended.

On that basis, you can do

some figuring. Their daily pay was \$14.05 a day.

Since they were away from the pits about 100 work days at \$14.05 a day, this meant \$1,405 each one didn't get. They've now won a pay increase of 70 cents a day.

So it will take them—if they work an average of 200 days a year—10 years to catch back the \$1,405 they didn't get when they stayed away 100 days.

But, since they also won an additional 70 cents a day that will go into their pension-welfare fund and not directly to each miner, they've won a total increase of \$1.40 a day, 70 cents pay, 70 cents pension-welfare.

Figuring that way, they'll earn back the \$1,405 in five years of 200 working days a year.

As for the millions the mine owners lost through mine shut-downs, there's no way of telling how long it will take them to catch up. That depends in a large part on how much they now boost the price of coal.

Church Attendance Contest Started

Unionvale—There were 105 members attended the Unionvale Evangelical United Brethren church Sunday school which was the start of the two months contest in the Oregon-Washing-

ton conference district to compete against their own last year's record attendance. Unionvale made an average of 90 attendance last year. Reports will be sent in each week and members are very anxious to learn their place of weekly standing.



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Army-Navy Quotes Salem CJ

Found in the February 25, 1950, issue of the Army Navy Journal is a quotation from a Capital Journal editorial of February 3, 1950, entitled "Double Talk on Defense."

The paragraph from the editorial in which the Capital criticizes Defense Secretary Louis Johnson for his double talk on defense is listed with quotations from seven other papers in the feature column of the paper, "The Editors View the News."

The paragraph reads: "Johnson comes along and talks as if the people couldn't read newspaper accounts of the relative strength of the various Armed Forces. Instead of nice sounding talk from politicians, the public wants to hear the real facts."

Other papers quoted in the feature column of the February 25 issue are the Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, Denver Post, Post of Bridgeport, Conn., News and Courier of Charleston, S.C., News and Observer of Raleigh, N. C., and Detroit Free Press.

Astoria Gets Loan For Low-Rent Housing

Washington, March 8 (AP)—President Truman today approved a \$44,500 loan to Astoria, Ore., for 115 low-rent housing units.

Lock Boxes Ready

Brooks — Postmaster Homer Egan announces the installation of 100 new lock boxes for the convenience of patrons.

Ex-GI, 32, Would Plead Guilty to Treason Charge

New York, March 8 (AP)—John David Provo, 32, told federal court today that if it was up to him he would "dispense with counsel and plead guilty" to an indictment charging him with treason in the Philippines during World War II.

Federal Judge Harold R. Medina, back on the bench after an extended vacation from hearing last year's long communist trial, rejected Provo's attempted guilty plea and adjourned the case until March 21. In the interim he will name two lawyers to defend Provo.

Judge Medina said he also would set a trial date by March 21.

During a discussion with U.S. Attorney Irving H. Saypol as to who would defend Provo, Medina turned to Provo and asked if the arrangement to name two attorneys was satisfactory to him.

The ex-GI from Sausalito, Calif., hesitated and then said almost inaudibly: "If it is up to me, your honor, I would dispense with counsel and plead guilty."

The plea was rejected. Col. Isadore Hornstein, of Jersey City, N.J., who has been serving as Provo's counsel but cannot defend him because of other commitments, told the court that Provo had a "good defense."

"He has changed his mind many times before, your honor," Hornstein said, "and now he's in the depths of despair. I urge you not to take this plea."

"I certainly would not take a plea on the impulse of the mo-

ment," Judge Medina said.

Provo broke in and said, "It is not on impulse, your honor. I have been thinking of this for some time."

"One of the charges in the indictment dates back to 1942 when my superiors in the Philippines lost confidence in me. I was dead. I have been a long time getting adjusted."

Provo finally agreed to have the judge appoint two lawyers to represent him—one a young man and the other an older experienced attorney. Medina said he had no one in mind as yet.

The court explained that the younger attorney would be sent to the Philippines and Japan, if necessary, to take depositions of witnesses.

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2. A schnouser is a dog True False
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