

Bustling Steel Mill Apparently Masks Discord in Campaign on Work Rules

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Editor's note: UPI reporter William J. Eaton toured the Fairless works of U.S. Steel Corp. at Morrisville, Pa., to get an on-the-spot report on how union and management regard the work rules issue, a major roadblock to settlement of the steel dispute.

By WILLIAM J. EATON
Morrisville, Pa. — UPI

Smoke curled upward today from eight of nine open-hearth furnace stacks at the mammoth steel plant here.

It symbolized the industry's surprising return to near-capacity production three weeks after a 116-day

strike was halted by a Taft-Hartley injunction.

U.S. Steel officials credited members of the United Steelworkers Union with full cooperation in the rapid comeback at the giant Fairless works.

But labor-management harmony in reopening this showcase plant, newest in the nation, apparently masks continuing discord over the company's campaign to revise local work rules.

Union resistance to this

drive on the national level may lead to a resumption of the strike at Fairless and other steel plants when the injunction expires Jan. 26.

Talks Freely of Production

Kermit L. Johannsen, 51-year-old general superintendent of the Fairless works, talked freely about production figures but declined to be specific on the thorny work rules issue.

He proudly recalled that after the Supreme Court upheld the back-to-work order

on Nov. 7, the first steel made by his firm was produced at Fairless—at 6:40 a.m. the following day. The plant has been operating at 90 to 95 per cent of its 2,400,000 ton-a-year capacity since Nov. 20, Johannsen said.

This was in sharp contrast to predictions from many industry sources that it would take a month or more to get back to pre-strike levels of output. The industry now is running at about 88 per cent of capacity.

"Our employees gave us an orderly shutdown when the strike began and an honest-to-goodness startup when it was halted," he noted.

Refuses to Specify Changes

Johannsen, however, refused to specify what changes he wants to make to improve efficiency at the huge Fairless plant that now are barred under the controversial 2-B clause in the Steelworkers' contract.

The clause permits management to change the size of crews and other work rules if it introduces new machinery. But it prohibits revision of established practices unless the company can show the conditions which gave rise to those practices have changed.

Russell Thompson, presi-

dent of the 5,000-member Steelworkers' local at the plant, is convinced that union members would lose hard-won gains if 2-B was dropped.

Thompson, 47, is classified as a rigger, or an expert in moving machinery and other loads within the plant. Thompson said he might be required to do painters' and pipefitters' work in addition to his specialty, rigging, if the clause were eliminated.

Fear Abolition of 2-B

"Our deep fear is that abolition of 2-B would give management a weapon and when they saw the power they had—watch out!" Thompson said.

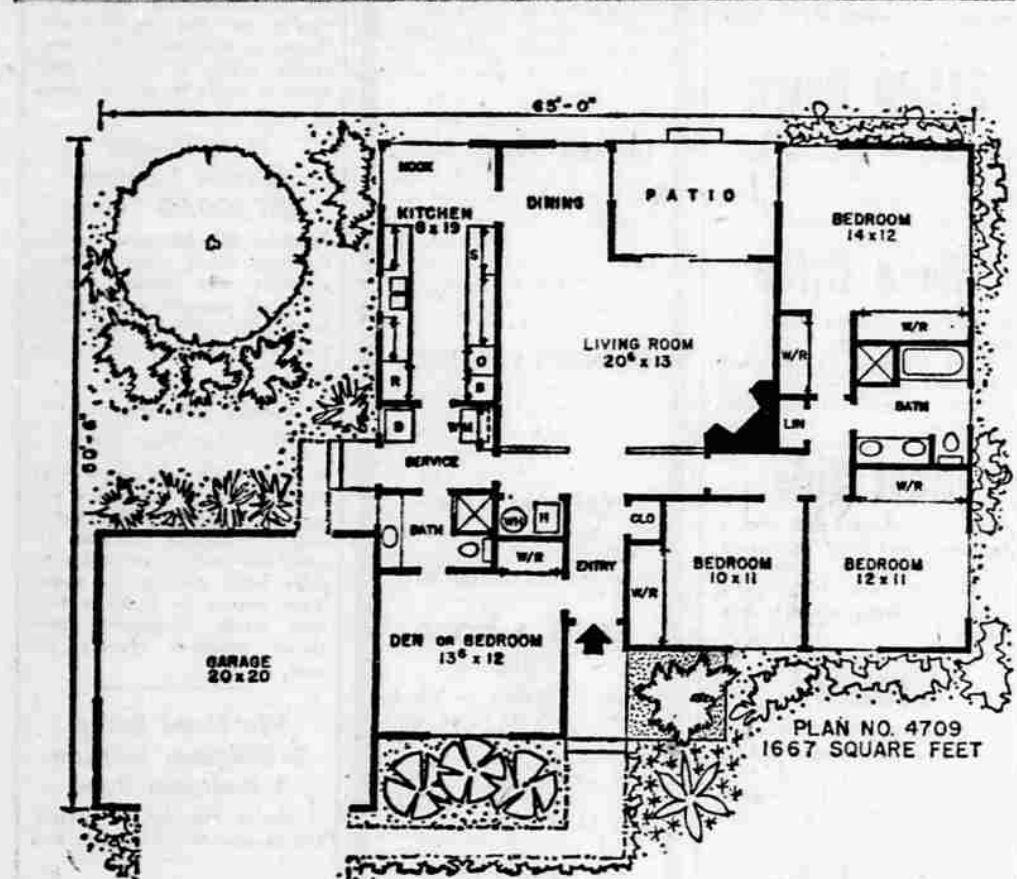
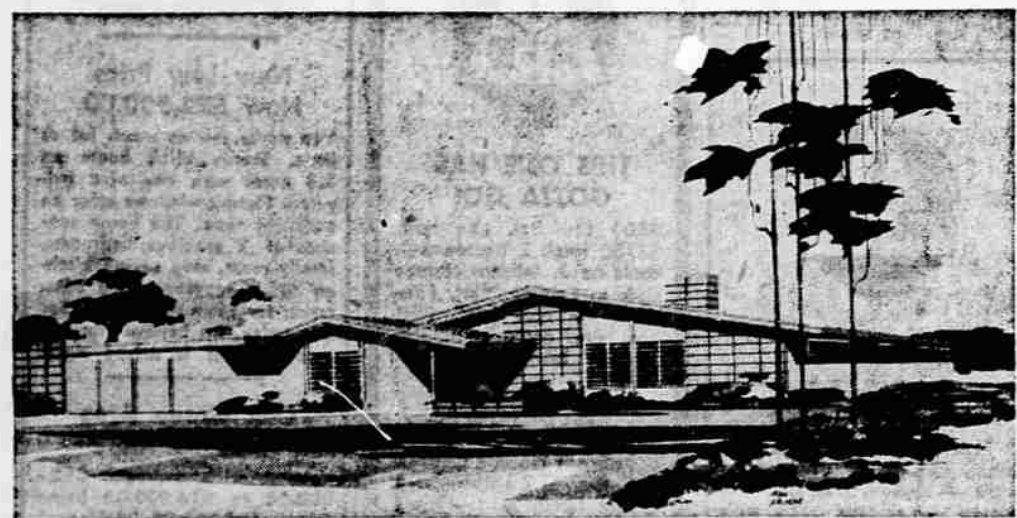
Both Johannsen and Thompson agreed that Fairless did not have as big a problem as other steel plants since it's a baby in the industry—seven years old.

Because of this, there are fewer long-established work practices and the company solved many crew-size problems by setting up a broad incentive program when it opened this plant. Johannsen said 92 per cent of the production and maintenance force is on piecework rates.

The union claims, however, that 2-B will become more important as time goes by. It recently won a grievance at

the plant which the steelwork-principle that the clause applied to practices arising after 1947 when 2-B was inserted into the contract.

This means that Fairless—opened in 1952—is subject to the clause, the union contends.



This Week's Home for Living

By HIAWATHA ESTES

If you prefer a home that is excitingly different and loaded with forward-looking features, then this home should meet your requirements.

The sheltered entrance opens onto a center-hall which provides wonderful circulation to all rooms of the house and yet a minimum of space has been devoted to hall area.

All of the bedrooms have an unusual amount of wardrobe space—the master bedroom even has two wardrobes. An extra large linen closet is located in the bedroom wing.

The fourth bedroom or den is separated from the bedroom wing and could also be used as an office, a guest room or as an individual suite for an

"in-law" or older child who desires more privacy.

The rear door of the garage is only a few steps from the service entrance. A three-quarter bath is available from this rear entry where it also serves the kitchen and den. Both this bath and the master bath have pullman lavatories, tiled showers and semi-private water closets.

The kitchen has the latest-saving devices, including a built-in range, eye level oven and dishwasher, all arranged for maximum efficiency for preparing and cleaning up after meals for a large family.

The nook, for family meals, is completely surrounded by large windows.

The living room is separated from the entry by half-walls and has been placed in

the rear for privacy. Sliding doors, which make the room appear larger, open this entire area to the roofed patio.

The modern sweeping lines of the exterior are especially smart. Its low sleek look is accentuated by colorful painted concrete block veneer and planter, large louver windows, crushed rock roof and stucco wall covering—which could be changed to wood siding if preferred.

Complete working drawing of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set, and \$5 for each additional set when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available for a period of four months from this date. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with your satisfaction, a new home plan book, Homes for Living, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P.O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

How Does Tree-Frog Do It? Suction Cups, of Course

The tiny tree frog has suction-cups on his toes; dew-absorbers on his stomach; green pigment in his skin; a light in his eyes, and a song in his heart. For a little guy with three fingers on each hand and foot, he can do some remarkable stunts in tree climbing or even resting on a perpendicular surface.

It's all done with suction-cups. These little, highly developed cups with which the little fellow is equipped, adhere readily to any surface, rough, smooth, irregular or a combination of all three. The suction can be applied or released by the frog himself, as rapidly as he chooses, or can be continued for any length of time with no conscious effort on his part. He can exert the suction, go to sleep and it holds securely, just where he wishes to be held. And having a mind of his own, he knows where he is comfortable and where he is not.

Live in Trees

Like all his relatives he gets to places he wants to go by jumping, but unlike his kin, folks who live in ponds, marshes and grasslands, the tree-frog lives mostly in trees. When he jumps he does it dangerously from one tree limb to another. One slip and he crashes to the ground. So he doesn't miss very often. It's too hard to climb back up in the tree.

Hiding in a crevice of the tree bark or on a leaf he feeds on insects, spiders and worms. He changes his body color to correspond with his surroundings. Usually he is a delicate shade of green, leaf-green it would probably be called, with a white stripe or a yellow lateral stripe down either side of his slim graceful body. His skin is soft, having about the texture and the sheen of finely glazed pottery.

On his little undersides he has a system of very fine pores that have a blotter-like action, making it possible for his body to absorb water from any wet surface and at the same time devote all his attention to the very important business of catching bugs with his front-hinged tongue which he unconsciously keeps covered with a sticky substance, to which the hapless bug adheres.

Familiar Call

For the comparatively few people who ever see this Lilliputian frog, there are many who are familiar with his shrill call, for it is he who be-

comes enthusiastically vocal just before a summer rain. For this reason, in many sections of the country he is known as the "rain-frog." The little female has no voice, she sits placidly nearby enjoying the serenade.

One hot, summer afternoon, black clouds piled up in the sky just before a violent storm. Suddenly the first drops hit the earth, at the same instant a chorus of frog voices filled the air. They had all been waiting and they responded joyously.

Even the downpour failed to drown out the clamor. Then, as if someone had turned it off, the rain stopped. At the same second the frog voices were stilled. It seemed their full cry — hilariously "singing in the rain."

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Man Hit by Own Car in Driveway

Falls City, Neb.—A Falls City man was hit by his own car in his own driveway.

Richard Warner was treated for a fractured leg. He stopped the car next to his house and got out too close to the garage door.

In slamming the door sharply, Warner startled his dog, Prince, who was curled up in the front seat.

The dog jumped and knocked the gearshift into "Drive."

TOGETHERNESS

Jericho, Vt. —(UPI)—Republicans and Democrats here recently were as close as they probably will ever be. The GOP help its caucus upstairs in the elementary school while the Democrats were meeting downstairs.

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SCHEDULES CONFERENCE

Baghdad, Iraq—(UPI)—Premier Abdel Kassem will hold a press conference Wednesday in the hospital where he is recovering from wounds received in an assassination attempt last Oct. 7, it was announced.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Thursday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo
13-21-35-44	1-11-25-34	1-11-25-34	1-11-25-34	1-11-25-34	1-11-25-34
2-12-26-35	2-12-26-35	2-12-26-35	2-12-26-35	2-12-26-35	2-12-26-35
3-13-27-36	3-13-27-36	3-13-27-36	3-13-27-36	3-13-27-36	3-13-27-36
4-14-28-37	4-14-28-37	4-14-28-37	4-14-28-37	4-14-28-37	4-14-28-37
5-15-29-38	5-15-29-38	5-15-29-38	5-15-29-38	5-15-29-38	5-15-29-38
6-16-30-39	6-16-30-39	6-16-30-39	6-16-30-39	6-16-30-39	6-16-30-39
7-17-31-40	7-17-31-40	7-17-31-40	7-17-31-40	7-17-31-40	7-17-31-40
8-18-32-41	8-18-32-41	8-18-32-41	8-18-32-41	8-18-32-41	8-18-32-41
9-19-33-42	9-19-33-42	9-19-33-42	9-19-33-42	9-19-33-42	9-19-33-42
10-20-34-43	10-20-34-43	10-20-34-43	10-20-34-43	10-20-34-43	10-20-34-43
11-21-35-44	11-21-35-44	11-21-35-44	11-21-35-44	11-21-35-44	11-21-35-44
12-22-36-45	12-22-36-45	12-22-36-45	12-22-36-45	12-22-36-45	12-22-36-45

Good Adverse Neutral

Patient Deputy Arrests Speeder

Petersburg, Va. — Dinwiddie County Deputy Arthur Gates testified at a speeding trial that patience has its rewards.

Gates had been driving along a slippery highway near here when a car zipped past him. It was too dangerous to attempt pursuit, he said. "Besides I figured the driver would crack up at that speed."

Only a few miles later, his prediction was borne out. He found the offending driver and car in a ditch alongside the highway.

RAILROAD 'BLUE' LAWS

New York — (UPI)—Technically, it's against the law to sneeze on a train in West Virginia, to run a freight on Sunday in New Jersey or to wear spike shoes on railroad stations or on rolling stock in Maine. A list of these and other such "blue" laws was compiled recently by the Jersey Central Railroad, which also found that one cuspidor is required for every three parlor car seats in Texas and that it was once illegal to board a streetcar in Gary, Ind., within four hours after eating garlic.

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