

Mining Safety Program Marks 50th Anniversary

Washington (AP) - The Bureau of Mines, pioneers of a safety program to cut the tragic toll of mining accidents, celebrates its 50th anniversary Friday.

The bureau, a leader in scientific development and conservation of mineral resources, was created at a time when coal disasters were claiming the lives of many miners.

It was essentially a safety research and training agency. Its cooperative efforts with management, labor, and other federal and state agencies have been major factors leading to improved working conditions in all segments of the mineral industries.

364 Deaths a Year
In the 10 years before the bureau opened operations with a single research laboratory at Pittsburgh, coal miners died at the rate of 364 a year in major disasters. Now, the yearly average disaster toll has dropped to 32, and impressive safety gains have been made throughout the nation in all activities concerned with the mining and processing of minerals.

Marling J. Ankeny, director of the bureau, said the agency's accomplishments are not limited to the mining field. They touch, directly or indirectly, the lives of all Americans. Ankeny cites these examples:

Leak Tested
- Air conditioners and refrigerators are leak-tested with bureau produced helium - a lightweight gas that also helps insure the purity of many products from candy mints to medicines and has essential uses in missiles, electronics, and space exploration.

- Bureau studies paved the way for safe ventilating systems in structures like New York's Holland Tunnel, and they still are providing information that will help reduce air pollution from automotive exhaust gases and incinerators.

- Some hospitals still are using radium extracted by the bureau years ago from domestic carnotite ores. This achievement, which came early in the bureau's history, made the element available for medical use at \$40,000 a gram less than the price then paid for imported radium.

- By controlling fires that sometimes break out in inactive coal deposits, the bureau has saved for future generations millions of tons of valuable fuel reserves at a cost of less than a penny a ton.

Aided by Program
- American businessmen are aided by the bureau fact-finding programs that supply statistical information and economic analyses on domestic and foreign minerals. Friendly foreign nations also benefit from technical advice and assistance provided by bureau experts through the economic cooperation administration.

- In half a century, the bureau has published nearly 6,000 reports describing its findings in research and development work on minerals, mineral fuels, and industrial health and safety.

- Bureau scientists provided the nation with new metals like titanium and hafnium. They also engineered the process now employed by industry to make zirconium metal, used in the atomic engine that powered the nuclear submarine, Nautilus, on its record-breaking run beneath the North Pole.

- Bureau studies of mining problems and techniques now enable the American coal miner to produce, on the average, 12 1/2 tons of coal a day. In 1910 the average output per man was 3 1/2 tons a day.

FAST PACE
Washington (AP) - Sen. Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.) typified the busy pace of Congress Tuesday when a Senate clerk called his name to determine whether a quorum was present.

"I guess I'm here," he

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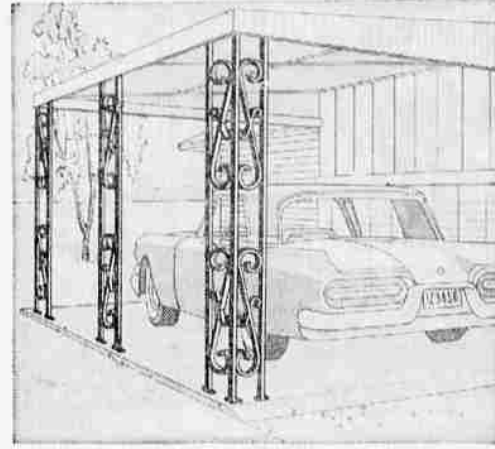
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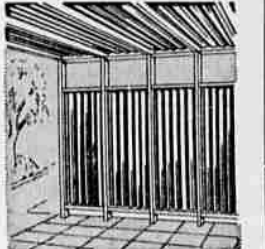
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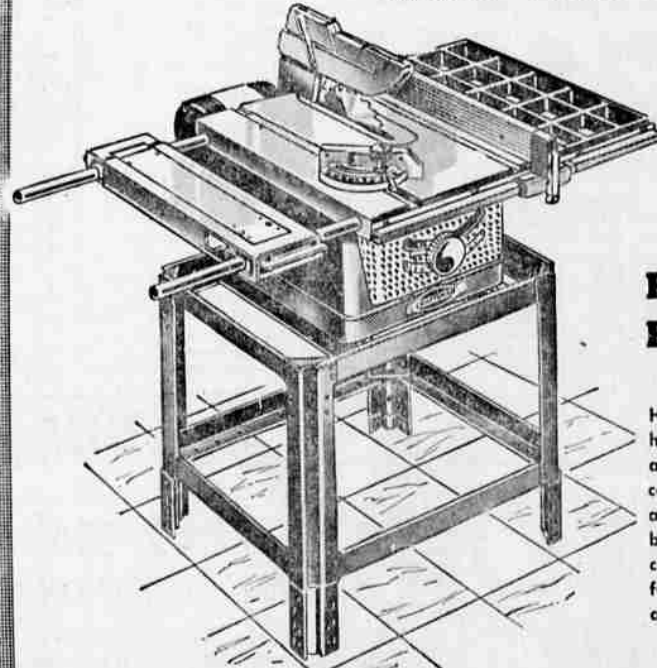
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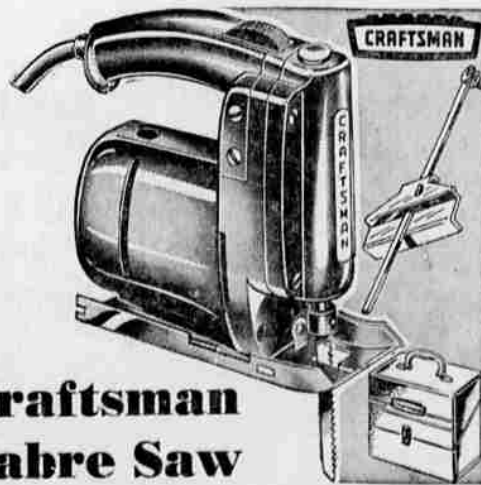
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