

Residents Won't Quit Dying Town

LOST CREEK, Pa. (AP)—A town is dying, but its older people refuse to abandon it. They like their homes. Their savings are tied up in them.

The death knell was sounded by the decline in the underground mining industry which began shortly after World War II.

Most of the young people have migrated from this northeastern Pennsylvania community, to Philadelphia, Bethlehem, Pa., New Jersey—anywhere they could find jobs.

Walk down the main road any day. You meet men and women who are 50 years old and more. The few young men who still live here are gone during the daylight hours. They work as much as 100 miles away from Lost Creek—up at 3 a.m. and home at 8:30 p.m.

Talk to Patrick McAndrew, 35, an unemployed miner.

"We used to have prosperous times here. But we're a dying town now. We have mostly funerals. No christenings."

Last year the community's only church, St. Mary Magdalen's Roman Catholic church, baptized five babies, the total number born during the year. Twelve adults, all more than 50, were buried.

The pastor of the church, Father Frederick Melley, will tell you the town started dying about 10 years ago.

"At one time we had as many as 350 families in our parish. Now we have 110."

In the Lost Creek area more than 5,000 jobs have disappeared since shortly after World War II. Why do the few young people stay?

"The same reason we older men stay," says Vincent Barrett, 50, an ex-coal miner who travels 80 miles to his new work. "We like our homes and we have all our savings tied up in them."

Barrett would be willing to move if he could sell his house or if he could get what he thinks it is worth from the strip mine operators now working in the area.

McAndrew and Barrett express the fear that grips the community—a fear the community will lose everything.

"There are two big strip mining operators working here," explains Barrett. "Now we're afraid they're going to take our homes to get at the coal."

Echo Show Times Told

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many Oregonians will have a chance to see Echo I satellite this week, if the weather cooperates.

Here is the schedule released by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for appearances over Salem. Points north and south of that city will have variations of only a few minutes and a degree or two for each 50-mile distance.

The schedule (all appearances southward from Salem):

Oct. 24, 7:32 p.m., five degrees above horizon, moving southeast.

Oct. 25, 3:57 a.m., 48 degrees above horizon, moving southeast.

Oct. 26, 3:12 a.m., 60 degrees above horizon, moving southeast.

Oct. 26, 8:21 a.m., seven degrees above horizon, moving southeast.

Oct. 26, 8:11 p.m., 32 degrees above horizon, moving northeast.

Oct. 27, 4:35 a.m., 18 degrees above horizon, moving northeast.

Oct. 27, 7:33 p.m., 19 degrees above horizon, moving northeast.

Oct. 28, 3:49 a.m., 30 degrees south horizon, moving southeast.

Oct. 28, 6:39 p.m., nine degrees above horizon, moving northeast.

Two Injured In Accident

A small foreign car went out of control early Sunday morning on the Hildebrand Road near the OCE railroad crossing and two Klamath Falls men were injured.

State police said the car, driven by George A. Allen, 33, of 3919 Bristol Street, left the road just north of the railroad crossing and ran head-on into a tree.

Allen and Jesse F. Allen, 35, of 3540 Miller Street, were injured and were taken by ambulance to Klamath Valley Hospital. Jesse Allen went home Monday morning and George Allen was treated Sunday morning for cuts and bruises and released. Two other passengers, Donnie Allen, 12, and Randall Allen, 9, were not hospitalized.

Police said the accident was not more serious because Allen was driving slowly on the bumpy road. The car had extensive front end damage and was towed away.



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