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Green Lands

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Our Cover — The modern coal operator is faced with more concerns than the casual observer can imagine. Our cover story in this issue attempts to illustrate how complicated the "boss man's" job really is. The story begins on page 17.



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Business
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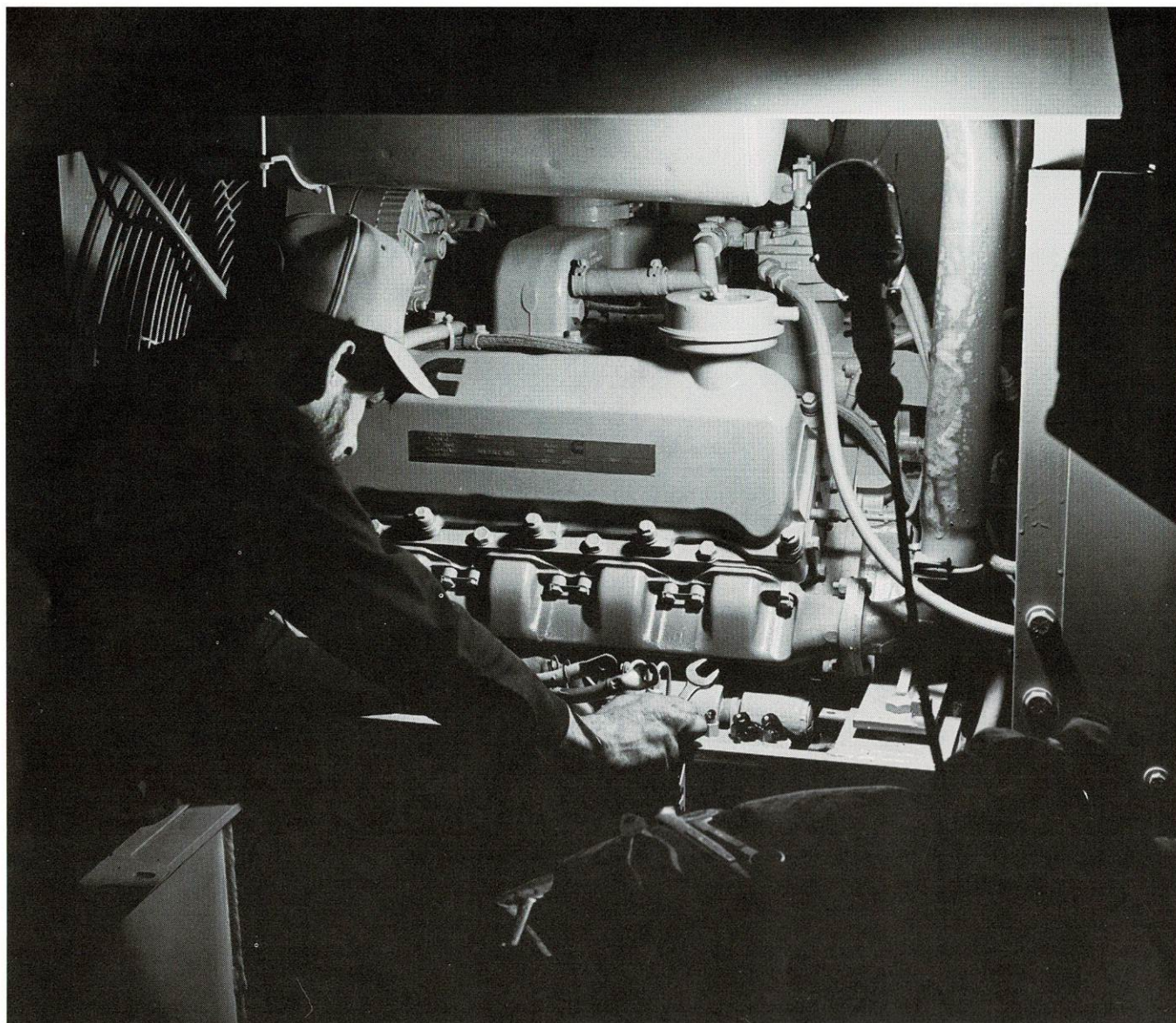
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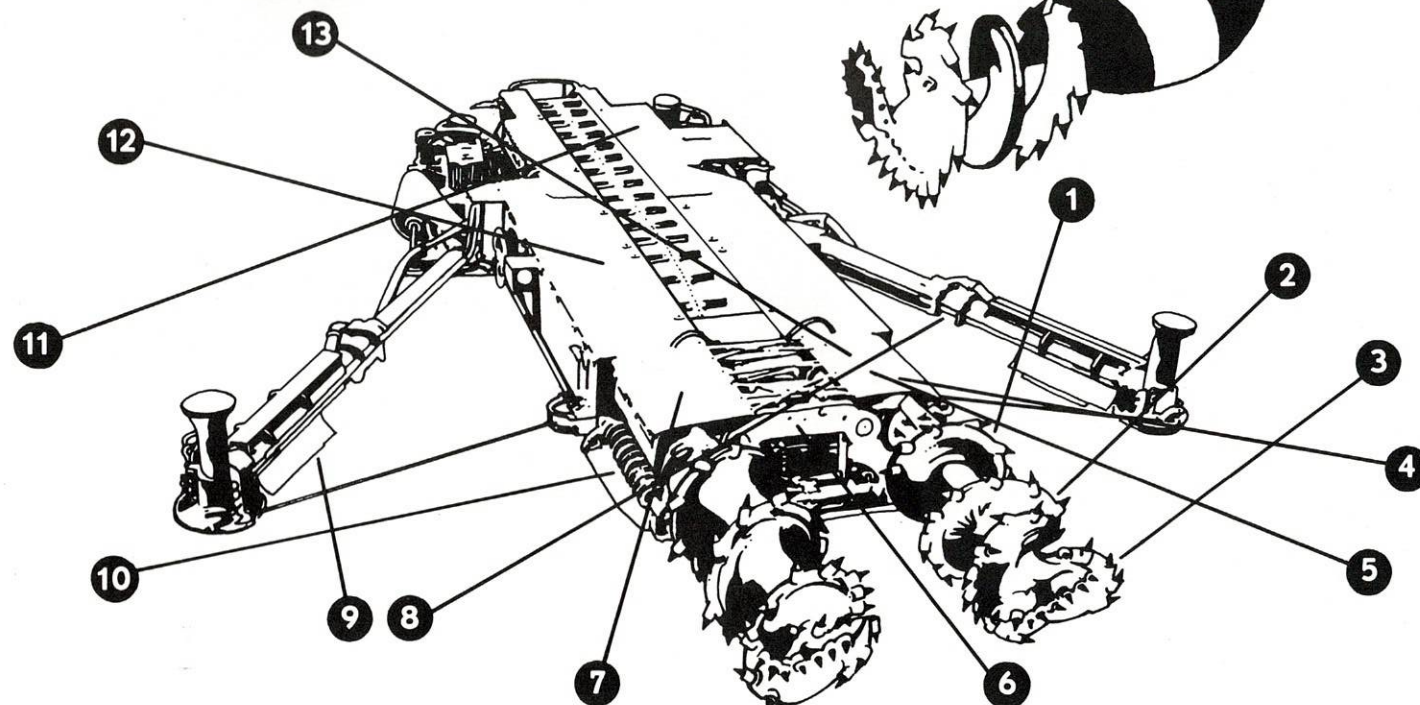
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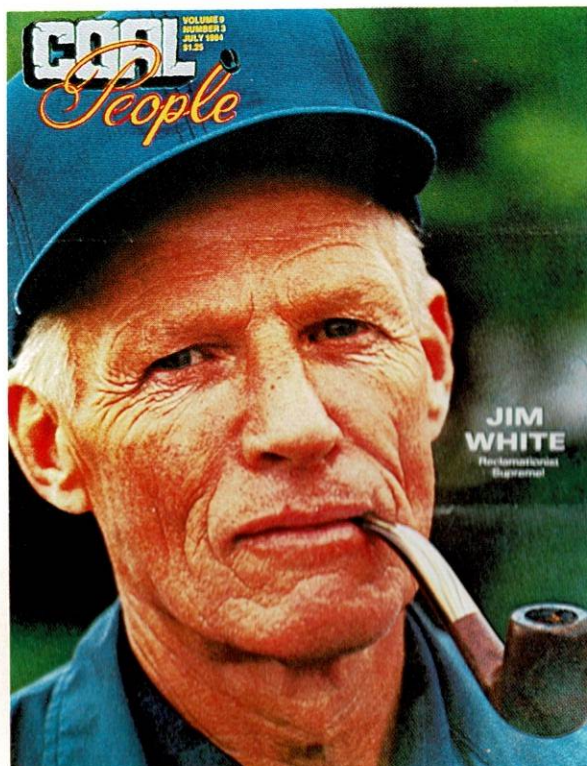
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Equipment for Tomorrow's Energy



Cover Man – Jim White

Story by David Kennedy. Reprinted courtesy of Coal People Magazine, July 1984.

Paragon.

That word is defined as “a model of excellence” or “an unmatched example.”

Several years ago Morris Udall, chairman of the Interior Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, visited land reclaimed under James R. White’s supervision. Udall described the site as “the paragon of surface mining and reclamation.”

West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association President Ben Greene said “paragon describes the work Jim White has done throughout

his 30 years with the surface mining industry.”

White is general manager of Pioneer Fuel Corp. of Beckley, WV. He recently became the first person named Outstanding Reclamationist of the Year by the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation.

“It’s fitting Jim works for a company named Pioneer Fuel,” said Greene, “because Jim is a pioneer. He refined conservation techniques and improved reclamation to a degree exceeding anything that had previously been part of mining anywhere in the country...

He’s had a sense of pride about everything he’s ever done.”

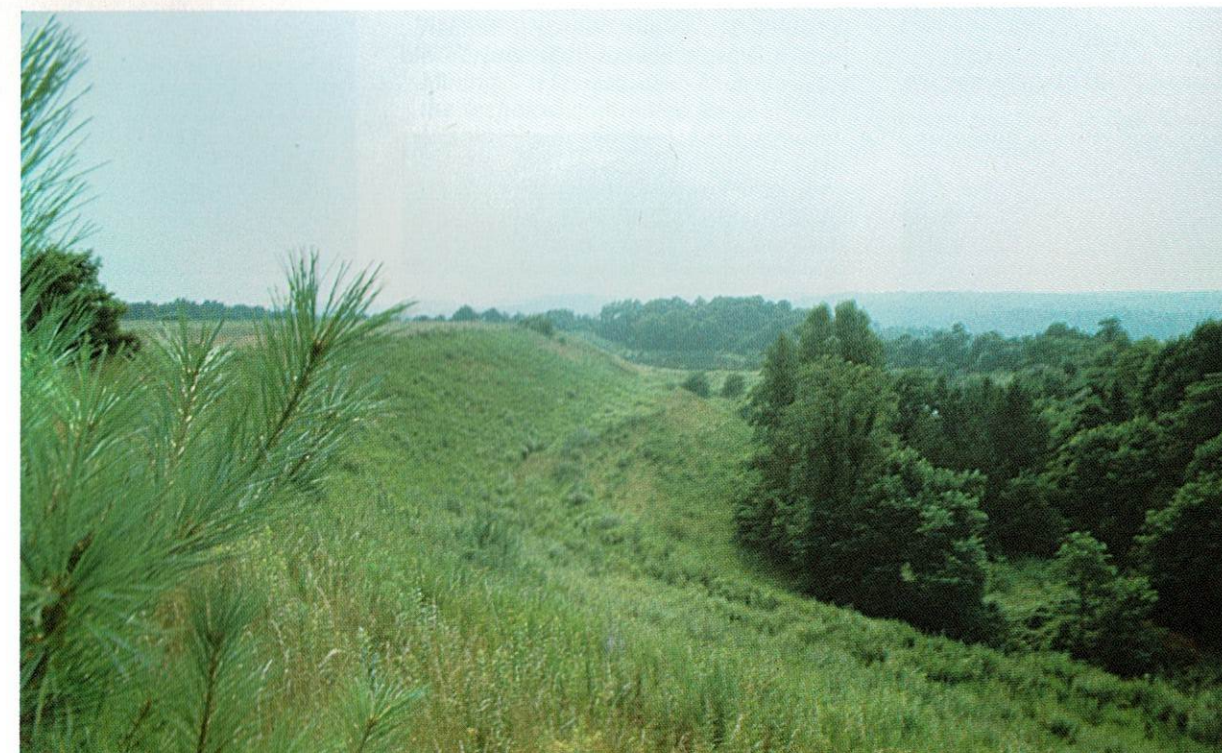
A few weeks ago we spent a day touring southern West Virginia with Greene and White. We saw much land that White helped reclaim.

White was raised on a dairy farm near Bridgport, WV. As a lad he learned much about farming, conservation and hard work. He developed a love of the outdoors, a love that’s never dimmed.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946. “Proud of it!” he said.



Jim’s reclamation work across the road from Independence High School in Raleigh County provided that school with much needed recreational ground.



Jim’s pride and joy is the Sullivan operation, adjacent to the West Virginia Turnpike, which Congressman Morris Udall (D-Arizona) described as “the paragon of surface mining and reclamation.”

White then went to Potomac State College and West Virginia University, where he received a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

Before graduating he married. He and his wife Sue became the parents of two sons. One boy is deceased but the other, Tom, is a surface miner.

When White got out of college he wanted to work for the Farmers Home Administration. But Farmers Home jobs were scarce, so he accepted a position with the Federal Land Bank.

A couple of years later he asked a TASA Coal Co. official about a job at a tippie near Clarksburg. "When I told the man I didn't know much about surface mining, he said that was good. He'd teach me all I needed to know... Well, he sure taught me. It damn near killed me, because we worked 14 to 16 hours a day," said White.

"I was superintendent there and we

had the largest surface mine in the state. Man did we work!"

In 1958 he was hired by Hannah Coal Co. to supervise surface mining in the Cadiz, Ohio area.

Six years later he became a superintendent for Ranger Fuel. When the Pittston Coal Group bought Ranger in 1973, White went to work for Pittston as manager of surface mine reclamation for three states.

White was real glad to see the "shoot and shove" days end, the days when coal operators left land badly scarred.

He tried to protect and restore land in the days when reaching production quotas--not conserving natural resources--was the top priority.

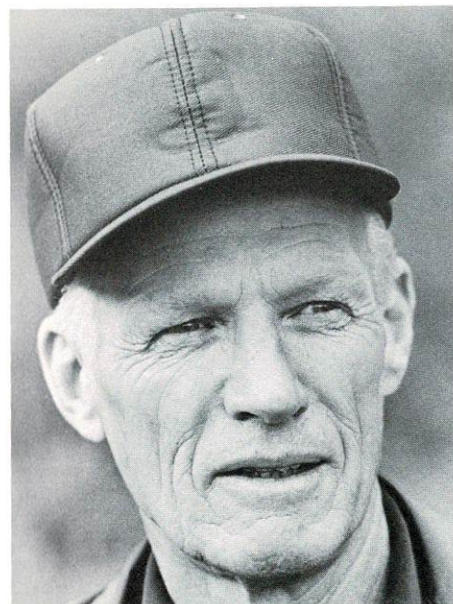
"Nowadays you can't separate mining from reclamation, which is a good thing. They're equally important. But, it wasn't always that way," said White.

Greene said White was "on the leading edge of those who pushed for reclamation" long before it was fashionable and long before most operators thought it was affordable.

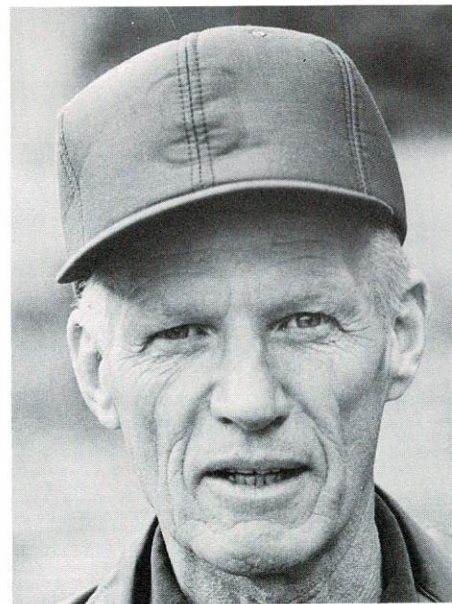
Through the stormy 1970's White often testified before state and national legislative bodies about reclamation. He is a respected expert whose advice was sought by many.

Kennes C. Bowling, executive director of the Interstate Mining compact Commission, wrote this about White:

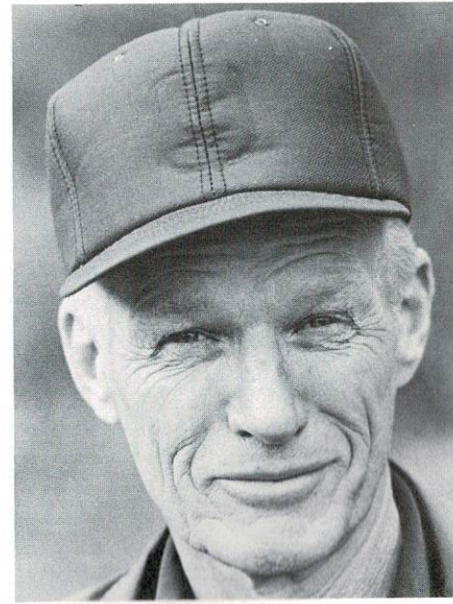
"I've known Jim for several years, and we've visited Pioneer Fuel properties in West Virginia many times. His innovative methods of water quality control and revegetation have been... the example of how surface mining areas should be. He's been effective in stimulating ideas for development of new reclamation guidance on operations under his direct super-



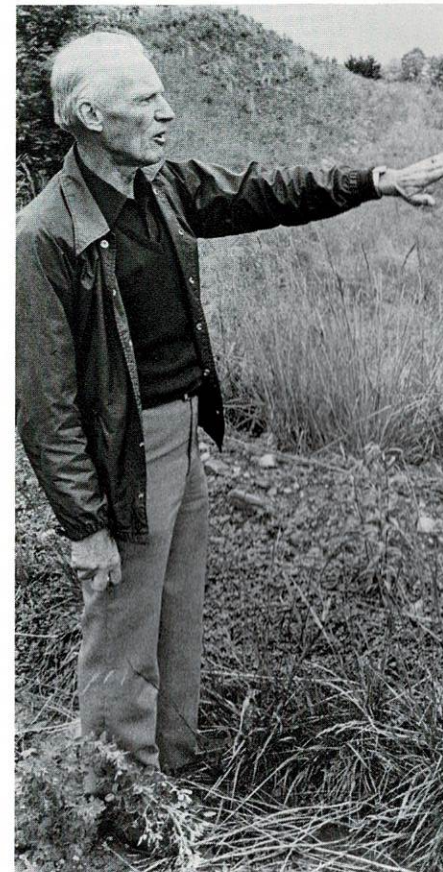
"It's fitting that Jim works for a company named Pioneer Fuel, because Jim is a pioneer." --Ben Greene.



"Jim is the most deserving recipient of the (ASSMR) award that I can envision." --Kennes Bowling.



"Jim has been instrumental in the development of the outstanding reclamation program now in effect in West Virginia." --Pete Pittsenbarger.



Jim White has worked with coal for most of his life, but it's reclamation that makes his eyes light up.

vision. He helped originate the West Virginia Steering Committee for Surface Mining and... was chairman of the technical committee of the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association. He has given talks about reclamation to many groups inside and outside of the state. He was one of the speakers at the first Trees for Reclamation symposium in Lexington, KY, in 1980. He's participated in the Evaluation Tour of Surface Mines, which is a yearly event in West Virginia. He has been the recipient of three awards for outstanding reclamation in the past eight

years. Jim is the most deserving recipient of the (American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation) award that I can envision."

No less glowing a testimony was given by James E. Pittsenbarger, chief of the reclamation division of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources:

"Mr. White is an outstanding and dedicated member of the coal industry who believes in protecting the most advanced reclamation technologies. Over the past 15 years White has been instrumental in the development of the outstanding reclamation program now in effect in West Virginia. He has been effective in stimulating ideas for development of new reclamation technologies. In fact, many of these ideas were tested... on operations which were under his direct supervision. He helped originate the West Virginia Steering Committee for Surface Mining... He was also chairman of the technical committee for the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association... Through Mr. White's farsightedness and fortitude, he can be credited with providing the necessary impetus that has allowed West Virginia to reach a 'state of art' relative to reclamation that is second to none in this country."

Procedures now taken for granted--such as concurrent regrading and seeding and fertilizing by helicopter--were tested and perfected by White. "I remember when we seeded about 6,500 acres that way," he said, "which I think is still a record."

He's especially proud of his work at the Sullivan surface mine site. Morris Udall referred to that tract earlier. It was a mountaintop removal job accomplished through haulback techniques. The revegetation, drainage and road work is so outstanding that experts have come from throughout the nation to

study it. Virginia Polytechnic Institute has an extensive research effort underway there now.

We also looked at a site in Coal City where White said there once was little more than "a cow path and a swamp." The rough terrain was mined and reclaimed. Now there are two schools, a good road, houses and much usable land there.

Then we went to Bolt Mountain, which was once ravaged by the surface miners of long ago. Environmentalists used to be justifiably very angry about the mess there.

Well, the mountain has been almost entirely reclaimed, thanks to hundreds of men like Jim White. Crews directed by him planted over a million trees on the now picturesque hills.

In 1974 White went back to Pioneer Fuel as its general manager.

Friends say he's lost weight and slowed down some since he learned six years ago that he had diabetes. But it's hard to believe he's slowed down much.

White drove us over miles of twisting roads. He walked briskly up and down hills and ridges, talking excitedly about turning useless land into productive land. He was enthusiastic and humorous all day. Not bad for a 60-year-old.

White and Greene kept up a lively conversation about good times they'd had together.

White impressed us as a modest man who thoroughly enjoys and believes in his work, who has few regrets. You can see why he has no plans to retire.

"It's been a hard life," he said with a grin, "but I've enjoyed every minute of it."

White has left many monuments to mark the way for others. Congratulations Jim!

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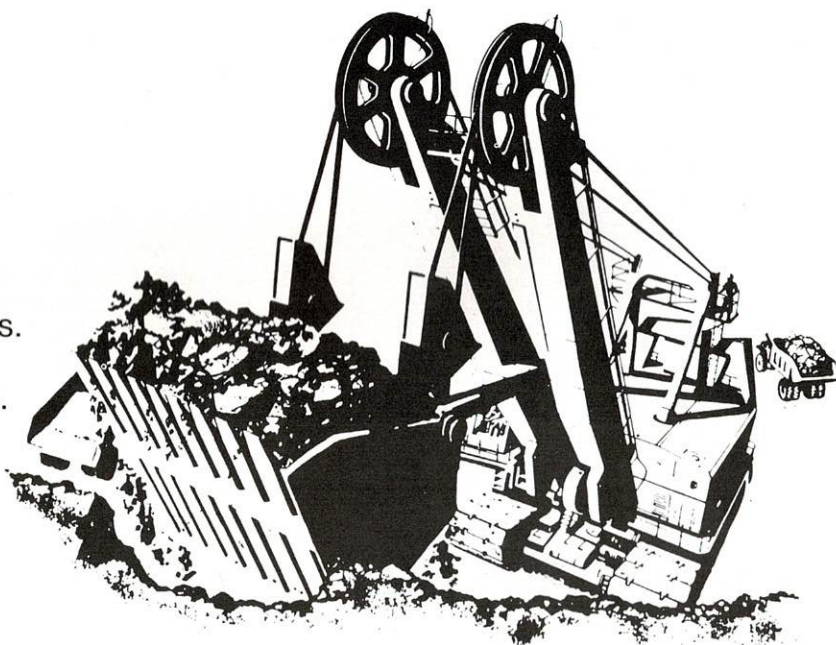
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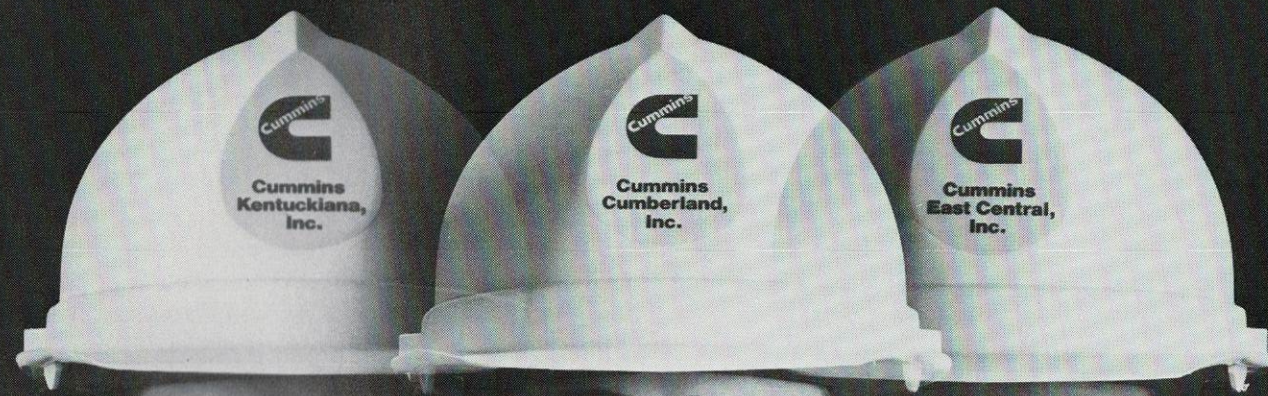


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An American made dragline moves subsoil overburden in South African mining country.

Surface Coal Mining in South Africa

By Norman Kilpatrick, Director
Surface Mining Research Library

I turned a corner around a hill as I drove back to Johannesburg from a visit to the Kingdom of Swaziland, which included a close-up view of the Mapaka underground coal mine in that tiny black nation, and I suddenly felt right at home. In front of me I saw a large dragline at work moving subsoil and spoil from a coal seam. The area looked like mining areas I have seen in Wyoming/Montana, with relatively level land, wheat and corn, plus cattle and sheep, grown on the unmined lands around the coal pits. (Open-cast mines in South Africa, which is where I was.) The climate and latitude is similar to West Texas, but a few things kept me from feeling too "at home." These included having to drive on the "left," having the sun in the north, and seeing a small herd of Gemsbok grazing in a farmer's field. I was coming to the Witbank area in Transvaal, one of the

four provinces of South Africa, where large scale surface mining is a relatively recent phenomenon.

Drive some 350 miles from the new, modern, coal export port of Richards Bay (developed with Government help to load collieries far larger than anything we can dock in the States), climb the great mountain range called the "Dragon's Teeth (Drakensberg), which contains coal areas, deep and surface mined, that look more like West Virginia than the next area you reach. That is the high plateau (high veld) of Transvaal, some 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level much of the time. Here are large coal producing areas, with huge burning gob piles remaining as a legacy of past underground mining in the middle of the rolling plains that is the "bread-basket" of Southern Africa.

I stopped and photographed the Amcoal dragline; then

continued to my friends in the City of Gold, where gob piles from old gold mines can be seen from the tall buildings in the downtown, and active gold mining continues near inhabited areas in the metropolitan JoBerg area. A few days later I was picked up by representatives of Shell South Africa and taken for a tour of their mining and housing at the 5 million tons (cleaned) per year stripping operation called Rietspruit. Named for a local stream and a joint venture of Rand Mines and Shell, Rietspruit is in the Whitbank coal field, the largest producer in the Republic of South Africa. The company estimates some 100 million tons of strippable reserves on their property, in four seams. This mainly "steam" coal is all exported, and has a sulfur content of less than 0.7% by weight, on the average. A crushing and washing plant is "on site" and in 1983 washed some 8,445,000 tons of run-of-mine coal down to approximately 5,469,000 tons that was sold.

Mining

The major equipment was, to my surprise, all American made. Three 70 cubic yard capacity bucket draglines are the key overburden movers, manufactured by our well known firm from Milwaukee, Bucyrus-Erie. Rietspruit also utilized three "small" B-E coal loading shovels, with 23 yard buckets, as well as U.S. made rotary blast hole drills and several types of "Cat" equipment. Coal haul trucks are in the 150 ton capacity range, with smaller "off road" spoil hauling trucks in use as well, at this 6 year old producing mine. Total overburden depth is approximately 180 feet, with the majority being hard sandstone. The two seam mining operations I saw utilize two coordinated methods of blasting, which WVSMRA President Ben Greene says would be "legal" if used in this country. These are a "presplit" blast to create a vertical highwall and a "throwblast" that moves much of the blasted overburden into the mined out pit during the explosion. (It should be kept in mind that this a "flat land" situation so no overburden can be blasted to an area below the lowest coal seam level.)

Reclamation

Top soil is removed prior to drilling and blasting and stored for up to a year, with no artificially stimulated cover. Spoil piles are left in place for around 6 months and then contoured. Sub-soil is moved to the smoothed spoil areas directly from areas to be mined, and top soil is then used to cover it just prior to the planting season. (Remember winter is in June-August in Southern Africa.) Steep embankments

are seeded with a mix as follows (expressed in kilograms per hectares of land):

Level land mix			
Cynodon dactylon	4	Cynodon dactylon	4
Eragrostis curvula	2	Eragrostis Curvula	6
Lucern-with inoculant	1	Digitaria Smutsii	2
Clover Ladino-w/inoculant	1	Lucern-with inoculant	1
Kentucky fescue	2	Clover Ladino-w/inoculant	1
Chloris gayana	2	Kentucky Fescue	2
Treticale rye.	2	Eragrostis tef	1
Atriples semibecata	2	Chloris gayana	2
	16	Lotus corniculatus	1
		with inoculant	22

Rietspruit officials expressed an interest in crown vetch for possible use on steep slopes, especially since Transvaal has very dry winters and an unusually dry period has affected the area for around 3 years.

The mine has not returned any agricultural lands. (corn/wheat) to such use, but rather their reclamation to date has produced pasture land.

Regulator Climate

Up to now the South African reclamation laws have allowed a "best practicable means" approach, rather than the detailed sort of procedures required by American reclamation laws. A "Handbook of Environmental Protection" produced by the Chamber of Mines of South Africa (which covers gold and uranium as well as hard metal mining, besides coal) is the basic reclamation guide. Enforcement, while results oriented, comes from several government agencies, including the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs; Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Affairs; Forestry and Environmental Conservation, and the Water Research Commission. Efforts are made to reach reclamation standards, generally, by consensus, at the "state of the art" and to work to expand that "state", a far cry from the U.S.A. I must say. Some pressure is building up, I understood, from environmentalists and agricultural interests to require more specific steps in reclamation, but so far the industry has held off the sort of legislation or



South African land reclaimed and returned to approximate original contour.

regulations we have had at our federal level.

Social/Political Issues

When Rietspruit was started in 1976, it was to be a \$200,000,000 investment in South African coal which ran into a few problems. At that time it was illegal for black mine workers (most at Rietspruit are Sotho or Zulu) to belong to a "recognized" labor union. Also, the government policy was to discourage married black miners living with their families in "company towns" such as Rand Mines/Shell had to construct, since the coal reserves are so far from any reasonably sized cities. The company obtained special permission to have some 75% of their 950 black workers living with their families in their "township," along with virtually all their 250

white staff. Since then, government initiated reforms have ended job segregation, so Rietspruit can and does provide equal pay for equal work, which (even though only "legal" since 1980) means some black workers already earn more than some white workers. All workers, also, may join unions and bargain for wages, etc. Over 25 million Rand (dollars) were spent by the company just for housing of the mine workers, which does not include the "company store" building (the stores are private), company paid schools, hospital, clubs etc. The housing is better as a worker moves up the corporate ladder, and the housing for a dragline operator (3 of whom are black) is estimated to cost around 72,000. Rand. I have never seen such nice housing and support facilities at any company owned community, be it



Post mining grazing land in the Transvaal.

Cabin Creek, West Virginia or in Montana. Rietspruit officials believe a career miner is a good investment and they have certainly put their money where their mouth is on this issue.

Final Comments

South Africa reclamation is likely not ready to meet a "prime farmlands" test in areas that might warrant it. The nation surely could use an "operation scarlift" program to clean up the mess from the past that afflicts parts of the rural mining areas. The area I visited in detail had relatively benign conditions, no acid water and no steep terrain. Finally, it seems clear to me that "green power" (the need for the best men for the job) is ending racial discrimination,

not only in mining, but in many other sectors of South African life. Yet, "liberals" in America (although not West Virginia born Rev. Leon Sullivan) are pressing for laws banning American investment in the Republic. From what I learned preparing for this trip and while in Southern Africa I would have to agree with Zulu Chief Gatsha Buthelezi who is quoted in Mining Survey magazine as saying, "They (who support disinvestment) want blacks to be jobless and starving so that they would be more willingly be prepared to go on suicidal missions to boost the image of certain exiles abroad." "As a black leader, I do not fear rebuke from the ordinary peasant and worker when I welcome any development of our mining industry which would create more jobs."

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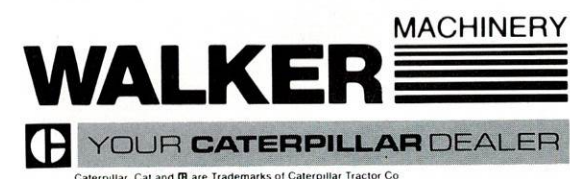
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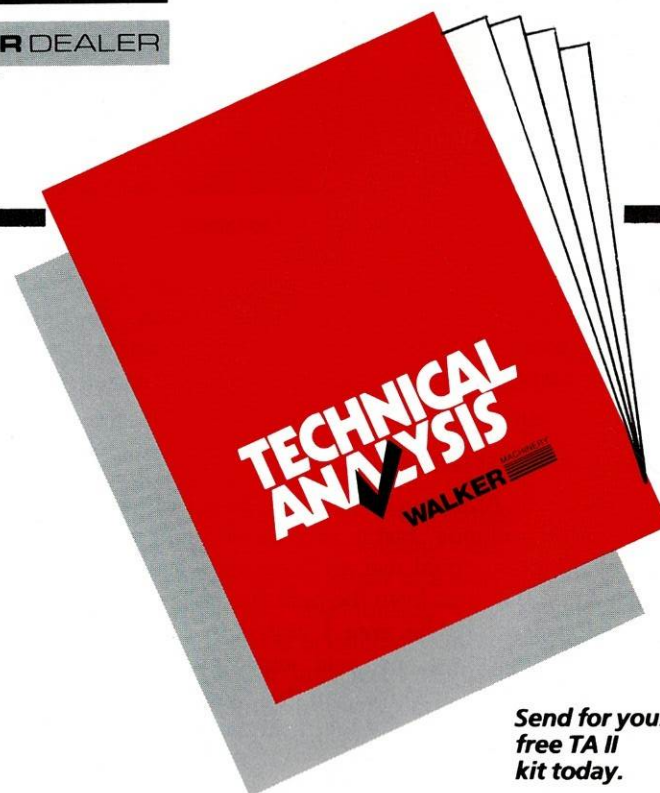
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How Much A Ton?



The Cost of Mining Coal

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In this article, we have tried to identify the common and average costs of doing business in coal, in West Virginia, in 1984. The quest led us to many sources, but not necessarily to all. Feeling certain that Green Lands readers know of others, we invite them to contribute to our study. We will attempt a followup report which will incorporate mining costs which we may have overlooked. All comments are welcome.

By Dan Miller

"Sixteen tons, and what do you get?" asks the old song. Well, in West Virginia, in 1984, you had better get at least \$616, or else you'll simply be "another day older, and deeper in debt."

How much does it cost to mine a ton of coal? That is, always has been, and always will be, the most complicated, and most critical question in the coal industry. It is crucial to know, not only how much it costs to mine, but also what price the market will bear. A piece of coal with its own inherent overhead, must be matched to the market place. This basic fact governs how, when, and if the coal will be mined.

There are some constants in mining expenses, but there are endless variables. To arrive at a reasonably accurate figure for mining a ton of coal, it is necessary to set forth certain con-

ditions. In this example, the coal tract is 125 acres in Nicholas County, to be mined by the contour surface method. The seam is 40 inches thick. Hiring, equipment procurement, and permit application may all be done simultaneously, but the permit must be secured before any mining or construction can take place.

Permitting costs

Coal operators can't expect regulators to regulate them for free. Therefore, when the permit application goes to the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, it must be accompanied by a \$500 filing fee. This is *not refundable* in the event the permit is denied. The NPDES permit, also under the jurisdiction of DNR, requires an additional fee of \$50. Then there's the lands inquiry fee of \$100, to determine

if the proposed site contains any unique historical, environmental, or geological qualities. When a Surface Mine Application (SMA) number is assigned, the prospective operator must purchase legal advertising to announce his intention to mine coal, to alert any potential opponents to the permit. This ad must run on four separate days, each a week apart, and, in this case, will cost a total of about \$150. The legal ad process will be repeated three times, one for each phase of the bond release. Add in the cost of legal ads for intent to blast, and the total advertising bill is \$750, making the total face cost of the permit application \$1400.

The bond is that amount of money committed by the operator to insure proper and complete reclamation. If reclamation standards are not met, then the bond is forfeited, and presumably used to contract reclamation for the area.

The bond is set by laws at \$1000 per acre (\$10,000) minimum. For a permit of 125 acres, the bond will be \$125,000. It would be extremely difficult for a new business to qualify for bonding by insurance or related companies. Because a mining bond is more in the nature of collateral, as opposed to an actual cash outlay, the qualified operator can obtain bonding at a rate which averages about \$12.50 per \$1000.

Following successful reclamation, the bond is released in three phases. Phase I comes at the end of the mining operation, when the entire area has been regraded to specifications. This amounts to 60% of the original bond. Phase II, an additional 25%, may be released two years after completion of reclamation, when the vegetation cover is well established. Phase III, the final 15%, is held for an additional three years, a total of five years after com-

pletion of the operation, and in this case, eight years after the job was begun.

The cost on Phase I of the surety bond, \$125,000 for three years, would amount to \$4,687.50. Phase II, \$50,000 for two more years, will be \$1,250. Phase III, \$18,750 for three years, amounts to \$703.12. Thus, the total bonding cost would be \$6,640.62.

Engineering and construction

The permit application is quite voluminous, and requires engineering expertise which is usually beyond the inhouse capability of the small company. Plans for haulroads, drainage and valley fills, surveying, maps, and hydrological studies will commonly cost about \$25,000, for an operation of the size under discussion here. Again, this is a front end cost which is not recoverable in the event of permit denial.

The construction phase of the operation will entail two major projects. One is the drainage system, of which the primary component will be sediment ponds. Three ponds of average size, professionally designed to capture all runoff from a mining operation will cost about \$35,000. That's a bargain compared to the cost of the haul road, which, like all other mine construction, must be carefully engineered. The typical haul road in West Virginia will cost approximately \$100 per foot. Thus, a road of only one mile in length will run about \$528,000. This makes the total engineering and construction costs \$588,000. These are all expenses which are incurred *before* any coal production is carried out.

Employment costs

A permit of 125 acres can be expected to yield about 75 acres of

mineable coal. At 6000 net tons per acre, the projected total tonnage from the permit would be 450,000 net tons.

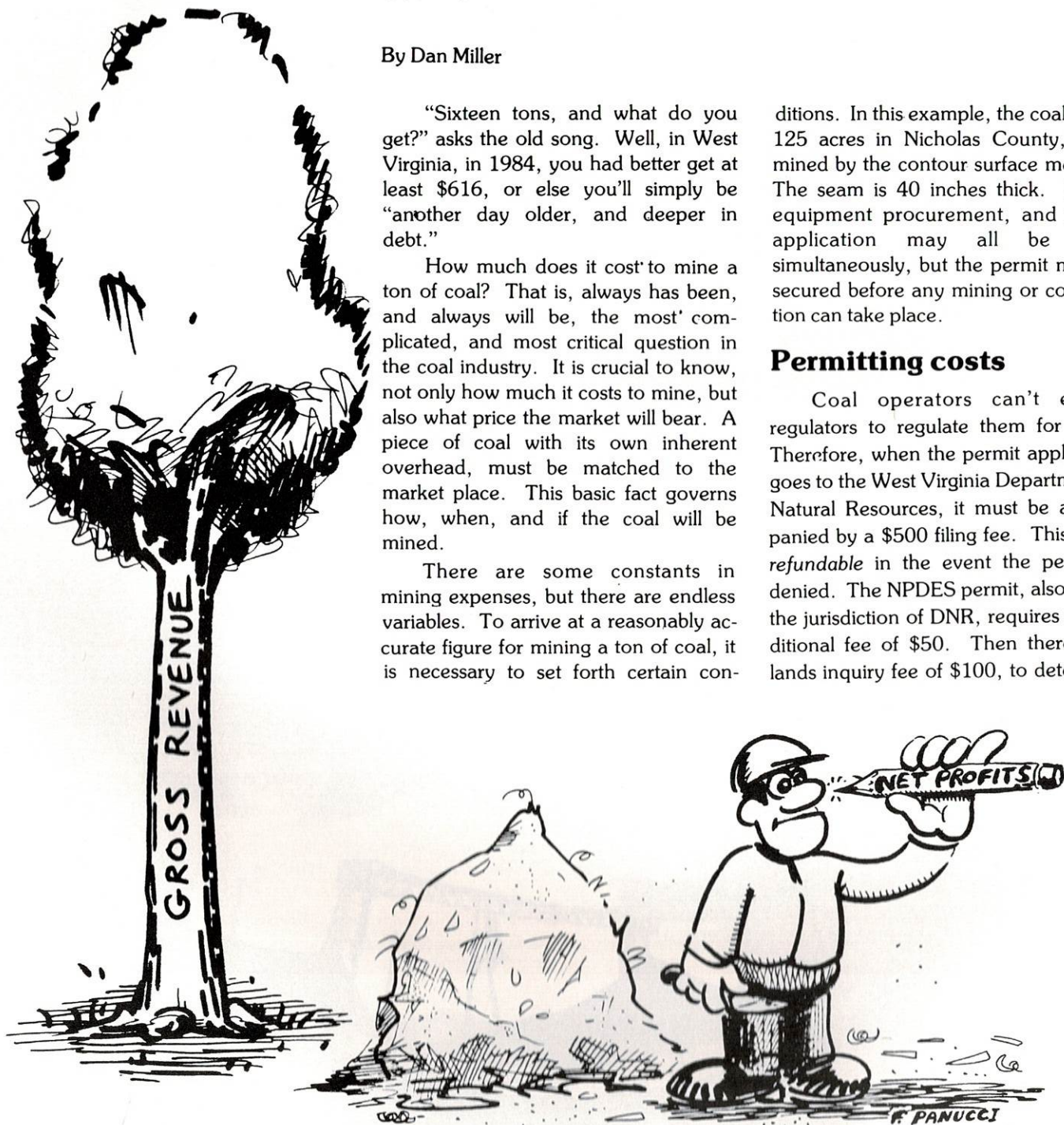
Setting a production goal of 15,000 tons per month, and allowing for startup, slow production as the permit plays out, and final reclamation, the projected job life of the operation will be about 36 months. Given current productivity figures, this calls for a work force of about 20 miners, plus at least one foreman.

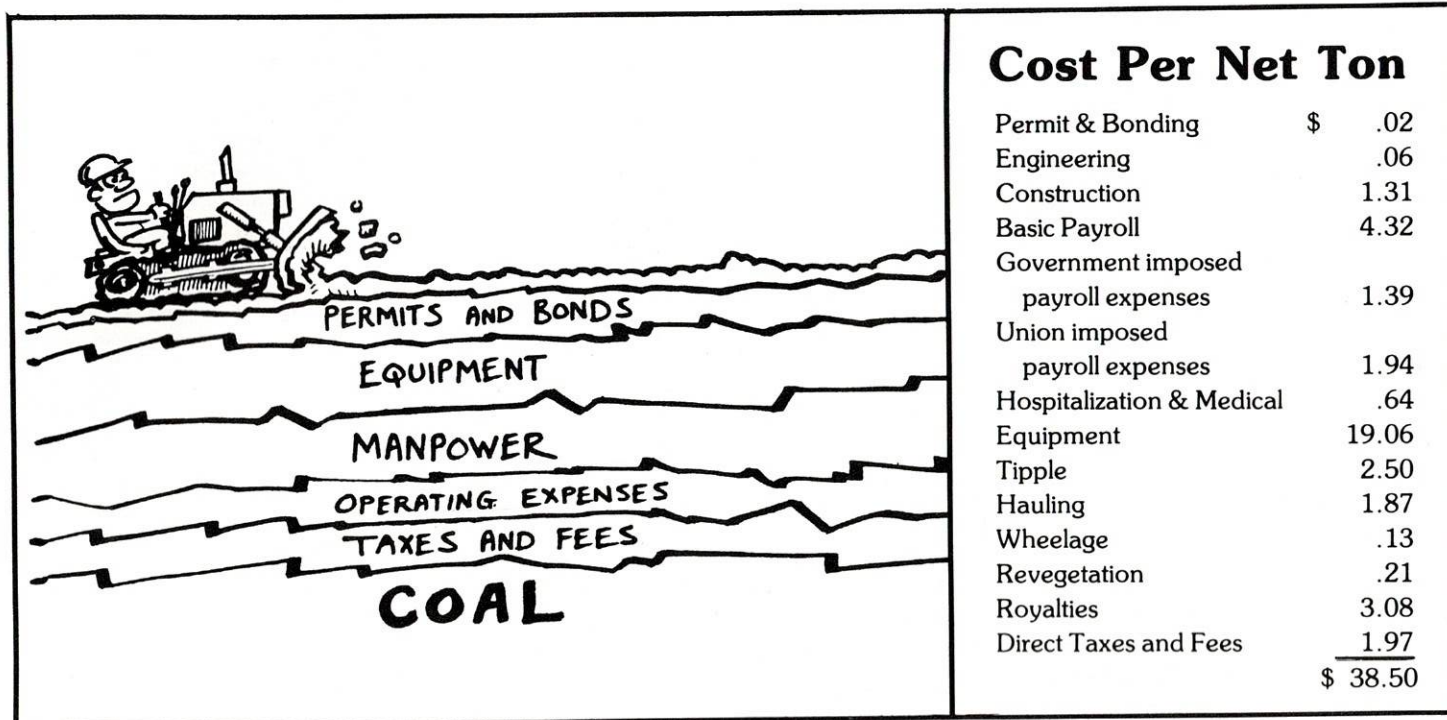
The average coal miner in West Virginia, based on 1983 figures, earns \$585.69 per week. This amounts to a weekly payroll, including the foreman, of \$12,463.80. Times 52, the annual payroll is \$648,117.60. For the three year life of the operation, and naively allowing for no wage increase over that period, the basic employment cost will be \$1,944,352.80. This, as all employers know, is the tip of the iceberg.

Coal employers, even surface coal operators, pay 50¢ per ton into the federal black lung fund. This amounts to an additional \$225,000 over three years. The State collects, for the same purpose, 2.4% of the payroll, and collects it three years beyond the life of the operation. In this case, the cost would be \$93,328.93.

Workers' compensation is paid to the State at varying rates. The rate for new companies (less than five years in business) in the coal industry, is \$6.50 per \$100 of payroll. This would amount to \$126,382.93 over three years.

Both the State and federal government take a bite for unemployment compensation. The State gets an annual amount equivalent to 5.5% of the first \$8,000, per employee. This would be \$9240 per year, \$27,720 for three years. The feds get .2% of the first \$7,000, per employee, per year, or \$294 per year, \$882 for three years.





FICA, the federal social security tax, is 7% of each employee's salary. There is a ceiling on this, but it is raised each year, and generally exceeds everybody's yearly income. For these 21 employees, the cost will be \$45,368.23 yearly, times three is \$136,104.69, for the life of the operation.

There are other fingers in the pie besides those of the government. Standard hospitalization, for instance, will cost about \$375 per month, per employee. In this case, the expense will be \$7,875 per month, \$94,500 per year, \$283,500 for three years. Practicality dictates that each employee undergo a thorough examination prior to employment, to identify pre-existing medical conditions. This would amount to an expense of about \$4500.

The UMWA extracts \$1.60 per ton from signatory companies for its pension fund. That's \$720,000 on this permit. The Union also gets \$1.07 per

hour. Over three years, that's 113,100 hours, or a total of \$115,022.70.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) also requires a bathhouse for employees, or payment of a "bathhouse waiver." Small companies, particularly operating in a given area for only three years, will find it more convenient and economical to pay the bathhouse waiver of \$2 per day, per employee. That's another \$31,200.

There's also the uniform allowance. This amounts to \$150 per year, per employee, payable on the first payday for each employee. Even assuming no turnover in the work force, this cost would be \$9000 for three years.

Training is required for all employees in surface mining procedure. Annual refresher training for this work force will cost \$10,002. Training for the required Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) will cost \$1,266.92.

Additionally, a labor bond must be

posted with the Labor Commissioner of West Virginia, to insure payments of wages and benefits in the event of shut-down. The bond amounts to four weeks of payroll, plus 15%. At current rates, the cost of the bond will be \$6,206.97.

Thus, the payroll nearly doubles, considering all the auxiliary costs of putting a miner to work. To be precise, the payroll is \$1,944,352.80, and the extra costs amount to \$1,790,117.14, for a total cost of employment of \$3,734,469.94.

Equipment

The variety of equipment "spreads" and methods of obtaining, financing, and disposing of them, is endless. The average surface mining operation will involve bulldozers, loaders, off highway trucks, drills, graders, and other trucks specialized for such functions as coal hauling, explosives storage and hauling, water

pumping, water spreading, maintenance, seeding, welding, emergency transport, and others. Site, market, and company considerations dictate the particular combination of these pieces to be used on any particular operation. There is no "average."

However, using accepted industry figures for cost-per-ton of standard surface mining functions, and deleting from these, employment costs covered above, approximate estimates can be made on the cost of operating and maintaining the necessary equipment over the three year life of the job.

In surface mining, by far the single biggest expense is that of exposing the coal, that is, removing and storing, or disposing of, overburden. Mining with a 10:1 overburden ratio, a good-to-average situation in West Virginia, this expense will amount to \$7,593,750 over the life of the operation. Loading the coal for transport to the tipple will be \$393,740. Haul road maintenance will be \$196,875. Final regrading of the slopes and preparing for seeding will cost \$393,750. These four basic functions will total \$8,578,125, which represents equipment costs on this operation.

Other operating expenses

Assuming the company does not own its own tipple, it will encounter a cost of \$2 per raw ton for this function. The operator can expect a loss of at least 20% of raw tonnage during the cleaning process. To net 450,000 tons of clean coal, it will be necessary to haul and clean 572,500 raw tons. Therefore, the tipple cost will be \$1,125,000.

The standard cost for hauling is \$1 per ton for the first mile, and 10¢ per ton for each additional mile. Assuming a six mile haul, the cost would be \$1.50



The Cost of Government

The following are cost-per-ton figures on payroll, taxes, fees, and other expenses imposed by law. Not included are such items as reclamation costs, which are higher in West Virginia due to stricter standards.

Federal Black Lung Payments	\$.50
State Black Lung Payments	.21
Workers' Compensation	.28
Unemployment (State & Federal)	.07
FICA (Social Security)	.30
Permits and Bonds	.02
Safety Training	.03
B&O Tax	1.48
Property & Fuel Tax	.13
Abandoned Mine Lands (Federal)	.35
Special Reclamation (State)	.01
Bathhouse Waiver	.07
Total	\$3.45

The Cost of Unionism

The following are cost-per-ton figures for those expenses unique to UMWA signatories. They do not include negotiated wages, which tend to be higher on non-union operations.

Pension Fund (By ton)	\$1.60
Pension Fund (By hour)	.25
Uniform Allowance	.02
Total	\$1.87



To pay for this

Permits	\$ 1,400.00	36
Bonding	6,640.62	173
Engineering	25,000.00	649
Construction	588,000.00	15,273
Payroll	1,944,352.00	50,503
Government imposed		
Payroll expenses	626,894.44	16,283
Union imposed		
Payroll expenses	875,222.70	22,733
Hospitalization & medical	288,000.00	7,481
Overburden removal	7,593,750.00	197,241
Coal loading	393,750.00	10,227
Haul road maintenance	196,975.00	5,114
Slope preparation	393,750.00	10,227
Tipple	1,125,000.00	29,220
Hauling	843,750.00	21,915
Wheelage	56,250.00	1,461
Revegetation	93,750.00	2,435
Royalties	1,386,000.00	36,000
Property tax	550.80	14
Fuel Tax	56,250.00	1,461
B&O Tax	667,012.50	17,325
Abandoned Mine Lands Fund	157,500.00	4,091
Special Reclamation Fund	4,500.00	117

Mine this many tons

per raw ton, or \$843,750.

Another common operating cost is "wheelage," that is, hauling coal over the property of an adjacent landowner. The standard fee is 10¢ per ton, a total of \$56,250.

The actual revegetation of reclaimed land is another function likely to be contracted by the small mining company. At approximately \$700 per acre, this will cost \$93,750.

In most cases, the coal operator is mining on private property, and therefore must pay a royalty to the mineral owner. This party gets either a price per ton rate, or more likely, a negotiated percentage of the sale price, typically 8%. Assuming a sale price of \$38.50 per ton, the royalty will be \$1,386,000.

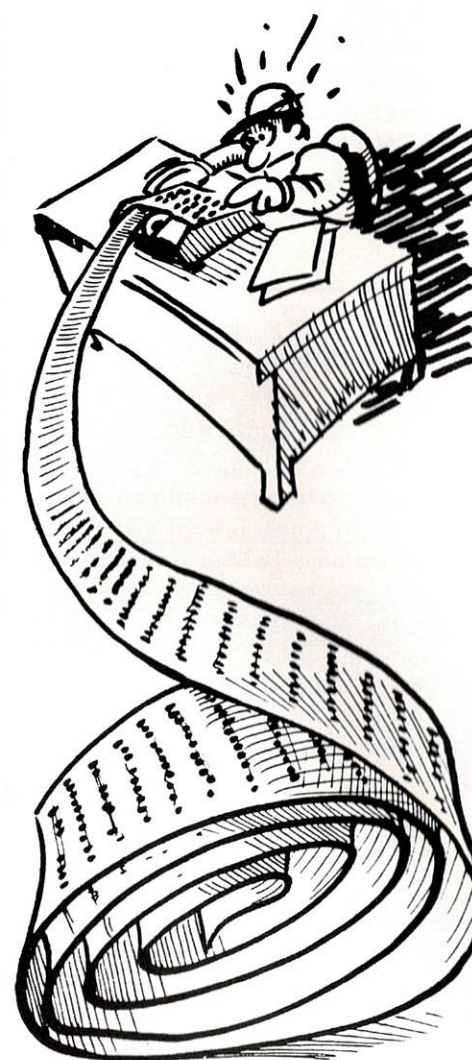
Taxes and Fees

Government, in addition to playing a leading role in employment costs, has several direct taxes for the coal operator. Basic to these is the West Virginia Business & Occupation (B&O) tax, which squeezes coal at the rate of 3.85% of the sale price. On 450,000 net tons, at \$38.50 per, the B&O tax comes to \$667,012.50.

Coal property tax in Nicholas County is currently \$255 per acre. For 75 acres of coal, the tax base would be \$19,125, which is assessed at a rate of 60%, or \$11,475. The Class III Levy is 2.4%, or \$275.40, which would be the actual assessment for the first year. Assuming the coal is mined at the rate of one-third during each of the three years of the operation, the actual assessment in the second year would be \$183.60. The taxes for the third year will be \$91.80, for a three year total of \$550.80.

Fuel tax is extracted at the rate of 4.85¢ per gallon. It takes a little over

A Little Variance



The hypothetical mining situation set forth here required numerous assumptions. It should be emphasized that this would be a relatively small operation. Even so, it is clear that any adjustment in costs ricochet through three years and 450,000 tons with startling effects.

For example, this operation was calculated to need 20 hourly employees, plus one foreman. The addition of even one hourly worker adds \$129,384.85 to the three year overhead. A wage increase of only 50¢ per hour adds \$67,045.83 to total employment costs.

A decade ago, the State Legislature saw fit to tack on a modest .35% surcharge to the B&O tax (for coal only). This increases the hypothetical mining costs here by \$60,637.50. Suppose the financially troubled social security system is "transfused" with an additional 1% in FICA payments. That's another \$19,443.53 in overhead. Remember when the 1977 Surface Mining Act imposed a tax of 35¢ per ton on surface coal? That added \$157,500 to the overhead of this operation; and recently when West Virginia reinstituted its penny a ton reclamation tax, that became a \$45,000 liability over three years.

Wheelage, the rate paid for hauling coal across someone else's

property is generally 10¢ a ton, or if the route crosses the grounds of two property owners, that's another 10¢ a ton, and that's another \$56,250. By the same token, add five miles to the "haul," the distance from mine to tipple, and you've added 50¢ a ton, or \$225,000 to the overhead.

Speaking of hauling, a recently imposed diesel fuel tax of 6¢ per gallon for highway vehicles will certainly find its way back to basic haul rates. This would increase hauling costs of the operation's total tonnage by \$1,296.

Haul roads also vary greatly, and the operator doesn't have a great deal to say about it. If this operator happened to need an extra mile of haul road, he would also happen to need an extra \$724,875 to build and maintain it.

And how about royalties? The rate in this situation was 8%. If it were 9%, the overhead would increase by \$173,250.

The most devastating change in operating costs is that of overburden ratio. In the operation described here, the ratio is 10:1. If that were 12:1, mining costs would go up by \$2,461,618.

A little change goes a long way—and so would a little relief.

two gallons of fuel to mine a ton of raw coal. This means a tax of approximately 10¢ per ton, or \$56,250 over three years.

The federal Office of Surface Mining takes 35¢ per net ton for the

reclamation of abandoned mine lands. This amounts to \$157,500 on this operation. West Virginia currently gets an additional penny a ton for its own Special Reclamation Fund, a total of \$4500.

The total direct taxes and fees on this operation will amount to \$885,813.25 over three years, or \$1.97 a ton. If that doesn't seem like much, consider that such government revenue is generated from one small

operation. Multiplied by West Virginia's total 1983 tonnage, these figures amount to one quarter of a billion dollars for that year. These are only direct taxes and fees, and do not include the various government imposed payroll expenses.

Summary

Using all of the figures cited above, the total overhead for this operation comes to \$17,324,898.81. Even this figure assumes no major problems in securing a permit, no prolonged work

stoppages, average weather conditions, no unpleasant surprises with the coal seam, nor any other of the myriad problems which can plague an operation on a day-to-day basis.

With this overhead, the breakeven price for mining a ton of coal is \$38.50. This does not include the charges for transport to the final destination, which could vary as widely as an in-state power plant to a Japanese steel mill. Selling the coal at the tippie will necessarily hold down the sale price.

Building in a standard profit margin for the operator will push the necessary sale price well past \$40, and probably past the point of the operator's ability to market it. In other words, the bottom line here is that this coal tract, with no outstanding adverse conditions, can probably not be profitably mined by the small operator. And that's why we don't have so very many small operators in West Virginia today.

Be a Coal Baron for Fun and Profit

Our hypothetical operator, aiming at the breakeven point for three years of hard work, worry, and financial commitment, made it with room to spare. Enjoying an income of \$17,325,000, he has managed to hold expenses down to only \$17,324,898.81, leaving a net profit of over \$800, an ample reward that comes with the prestige and publicity of this unique profession. To apply, contact the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, West Virginia. While you're at it, contact the Office of Surface Mining, the West Virginia Department of Mines, the West Virginia Department of Employment Security, the West Virginia Workers' Compensation Fund, the West Virginia Tax Department, the U.S. Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Internal Revenue Service, and several other agencies to be designated later.



Here's Where the Money Goes...

Income for 450,000 tons at \$38.50 per ton	\$17,325,000.00
Equipment	- 8,578,125.00
	\$ 8,746,875.00
Tippie, hauling, wheelage, revegetation	- 2,118,750.00
	\$ 6,628,125.00
Payroll	- 1,944,352.80
	\$ 4,683,772.20
Other employment costs	-1,790,117.14
	\$ 2,893,655.06
Royalties	- 1,386,000.00
	\$ 1,507,655.06
Taxes & Fees	- 885,813.30
	\$ 621,841.76
Permits, bonding, engineering, construction	- 621,040.62
Net Profit	\$ 801.14

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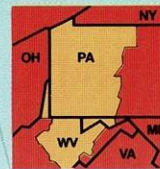
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Nearly 400 Gather at the Greenbrier

Nearly 400 members and guests convened last month at the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs for the Association's Annual Meeting. On the final day of the three day affair, participants found out what makes Greenbrier County green, but steady showers failed to dampen enthusiasm as the group worked its way through a full schedule of business meetings, technical sessions and recreational activities.

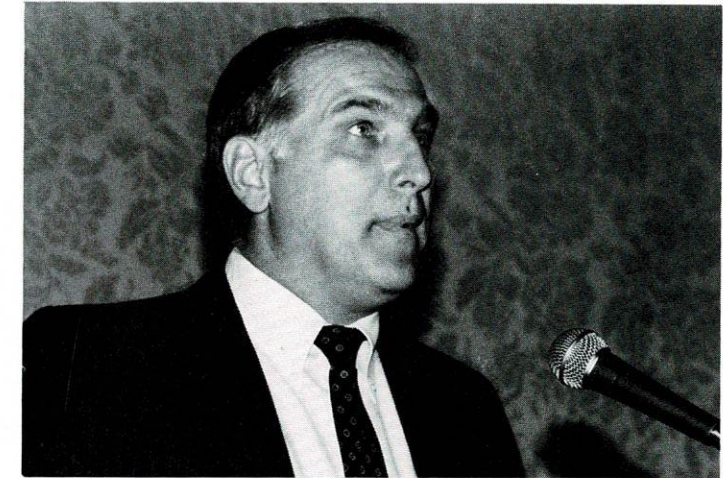
As always, a highlight of the meeting was the election of new Board members and officers. The Chairman of the Board of Directors for the coming year is Carl DelSignore of Buffalo Coal Co., Bayard. Following a year in which he served as first vice-chairman, he succeeds Tracy Hylton of Whitesville A&S Coal Co., Beckley.

Also elected to serve as officers for the coming year were: First Vice-Chairman — William Ritchie, Hobet Mining & Construction Co., Huntington; Second Vice-Chairman Max Messenger, Daugherty Coal Co., Terra Alta; Secretary-Dwight Keating, Barbour Coal Co., Clarksburg; Treasurer—Theodore Brisky, Bethlehem Mines Corp., Charleston; and Chairman-Associate Division — Andrew Teeter, McDonough Caperton Shepherd Group, Charleston.

Four new members were newly elected to the Board, including: J.W. Anderson, Anderson & Anderson Contractors, Princeton; Robert Bliss, Call Detroit Diesel Allison, South Charleston; Lee Jordan, Flat Top Insurance Agency, South Charleston; and John Sturm, Sturm Environmental Services, Bridgeport.

Six members were re-elected to the Board. These were: Theodore Brisky, Bethlehem Mines Corp., Charleston; C.E. Compton, Grafton Coal Co., Clarksburg; John Faltis, Anker Mining & Development Co., Pittsburgh, PA; Lawson Hamilton, Ford Coal Company, Hansford; Tracy Hylton, Whitesville A&S Coal Co., Beckley; and Dwight Keating, Barbour Coal Co., Clarksburg.

Also, Richard Delatore, West Virginia Energy, Winterville, OH was named to fill the two-year unexpired term of William Forbes.



Paul F. Stanek, vice president of Industrial Relations, Consolidation Coal Co., "Current Status of 1984 Contract Negotiations."



Mike Foster, attorney-at-law, Jackson, Kelly, Holt, & O'Farrell, "Continuing Saga of Withdrawal Liability."



David A. Zegeer, assistant secretary, Mine Safety & Health Administration, "Making Safety Pay."



Tracy Hylton



Ben Greene



Carl DelSignore



The Change of Command

A highlight of each year's Annual Meeting is the orderly transfer of the chairmanship. Traditionally, here's how the process proceeds. On Thursday afternoon the outgoing Board meets for the last time. On Friday morning, the membership elects its new Board. On Friday afternoon, the new Board elects officers for the coming year. On Saturday morning, over breakfast, the new Chairman is formally introduced to the membership, and on Saturday evening, he begins to preside.

Shown here at the Saturday breakfast, outgoing Chairman Tracy Hylton (above, left) shows off his "membership award" to successor Carl DelSignore. Tracy earned the hardhat trophy by promising the membership last year that he would recruit as many new members as everyone else put together, and then doing it. Below, Association President Ben Greene (left) and Tracy lead a round of applause as the new Chairman is presented to the members.



Betty Hylton (right) receives a bouquet of roses for serving as "wife of the Chairman" for the past year.



Evelyn DelSignore, wife of the new Chairman, gets a rose bouquet and a kiss from the president as an advance on her patience in the year ahead.



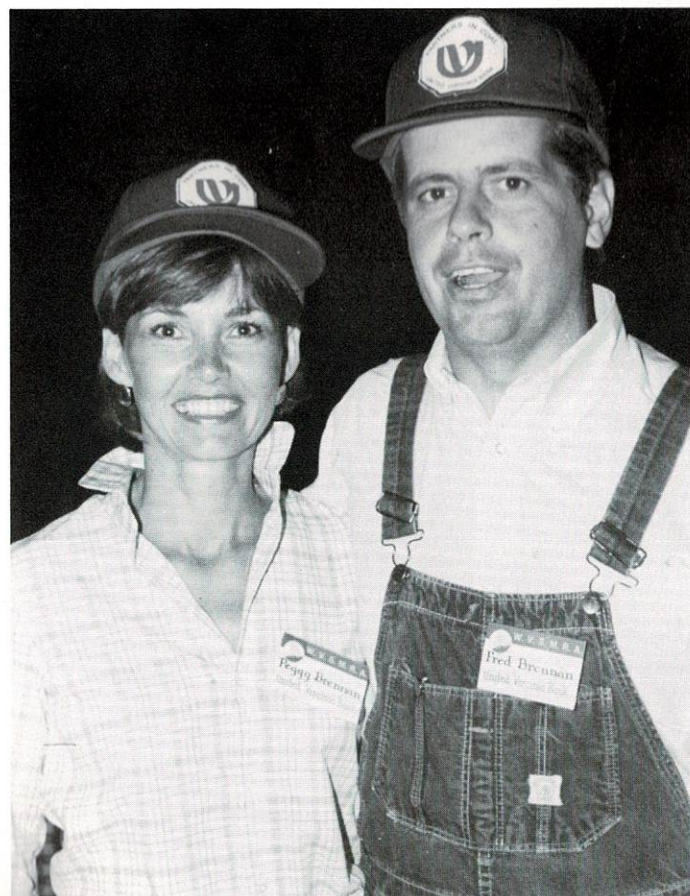
The new Chairman takes over, Carl DelSignore of Buffalo Coal Co.

Company Pride

The 1984 Annual Meeting saw the advent of the "Company Pride Award," presented to the company whose employees most graphically illustrated the pride of employment. The competition was conducted at the 'Coal Miners' Party, Friday night on Kate's Mountain, and the response was gratifying. The prize, a bronzed miner's lunch bucket will be inscribed with the name of this year's winner, and returned to the 1985 Annual Meeting to see who can take it away.



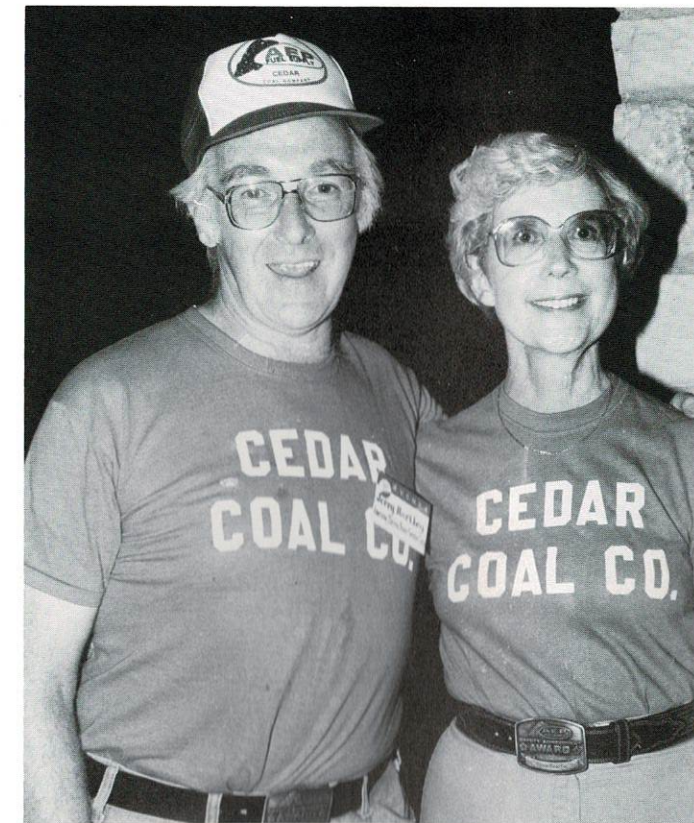
Don and Maryann Adkins of Independent Explosive Co.



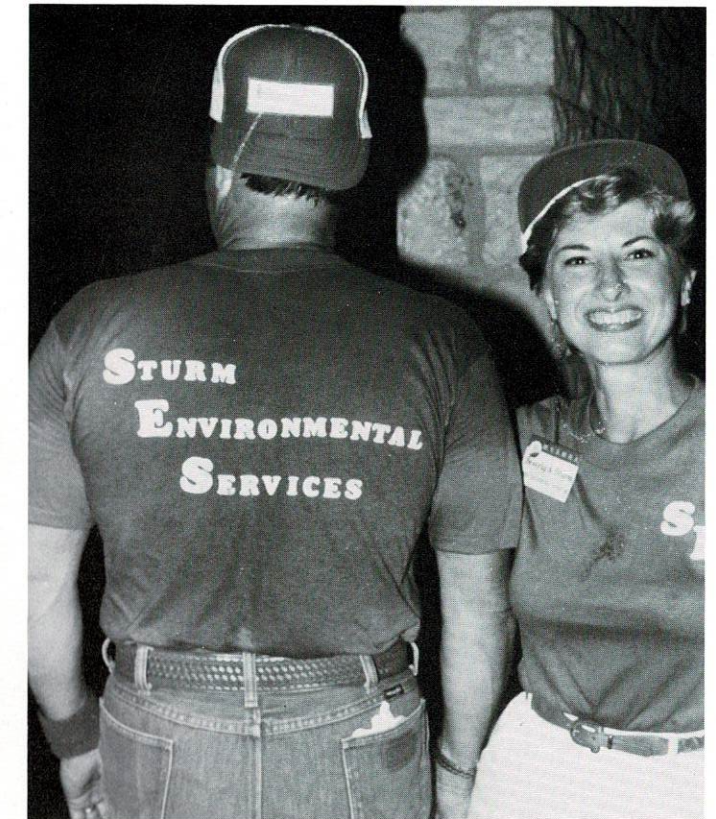
Peggy and Fred Brennan of United Virginia Bank.



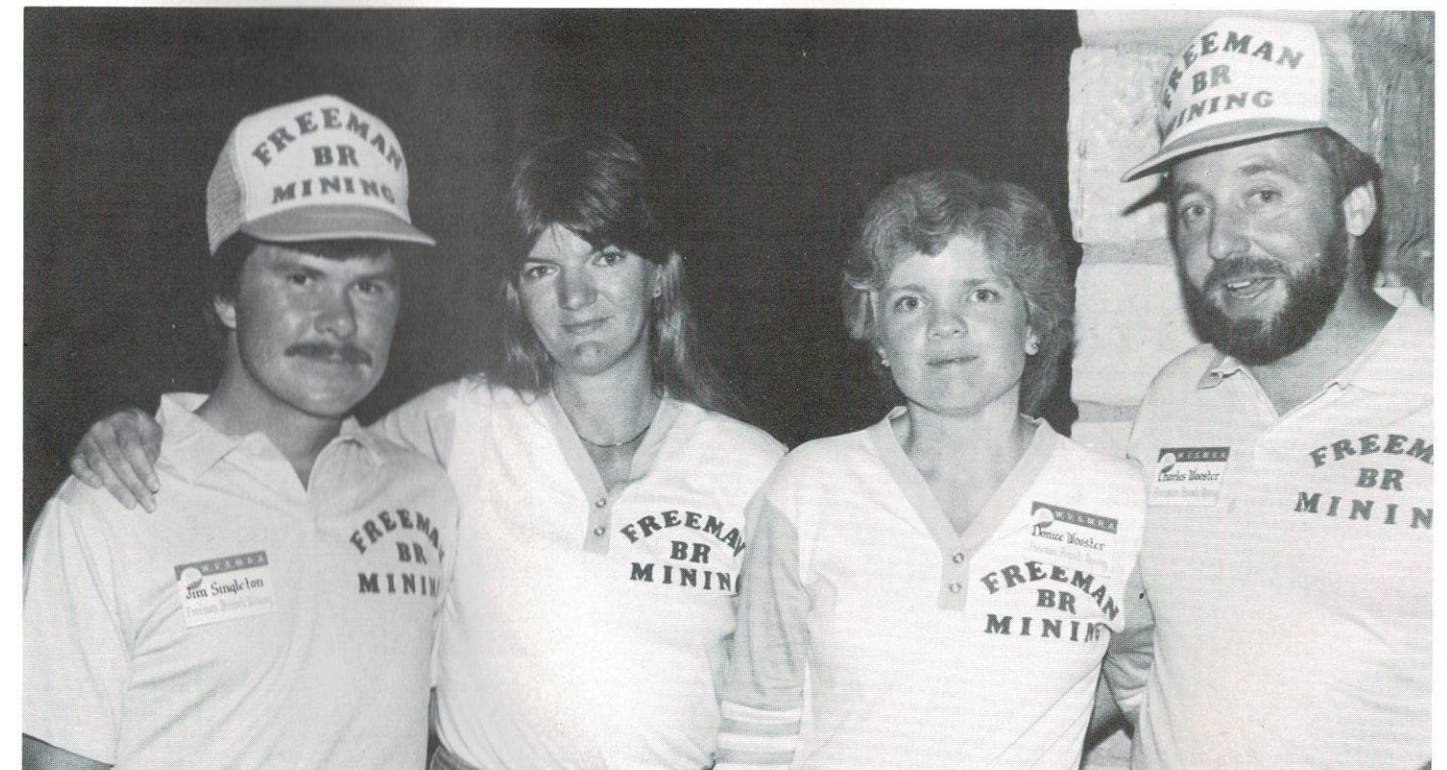
Margo and Andy Teeter of McDonough Caperton Shepherd Group.



Jerry and Nancy Hartley of Cedar Coal Co., American Electric Power.



John and Beverly Sturm of Sturm Environmental Services.



Jim and Jeanne Singleton, Charles and Donice Wooster of Freeman Branch Mining.



It's a shame this one's not in color. This is the orange and black "Hummin' Cummins" group (Cummins Cumberland, Inc.), Ed and Arlou Surgeon, and Kay and Dave Hibbs.

Company Pride

Larry and Jenny Roberts of Penn Line Service, Inc., shared the individual award for most authentic miner. It's not hard to see why.



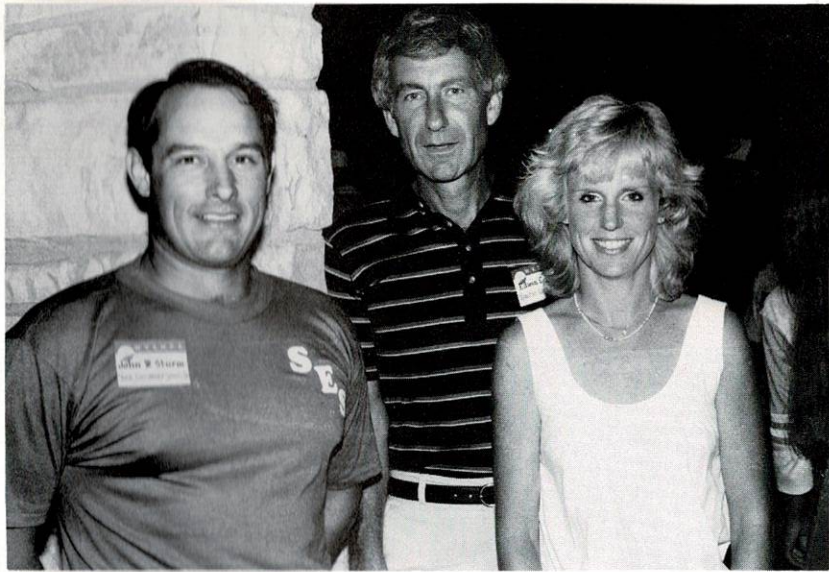
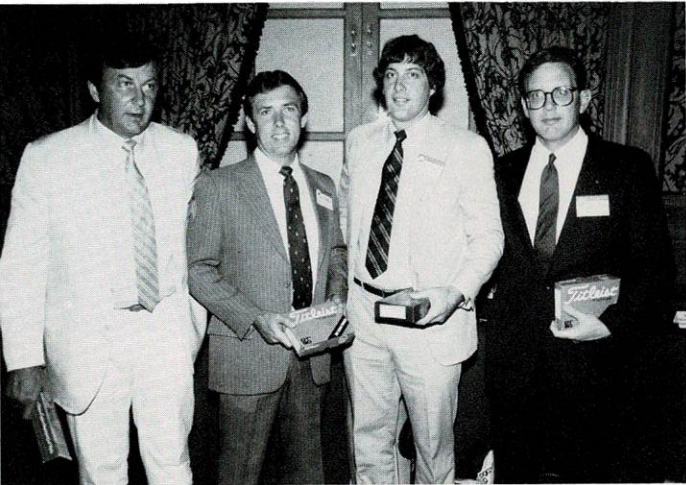
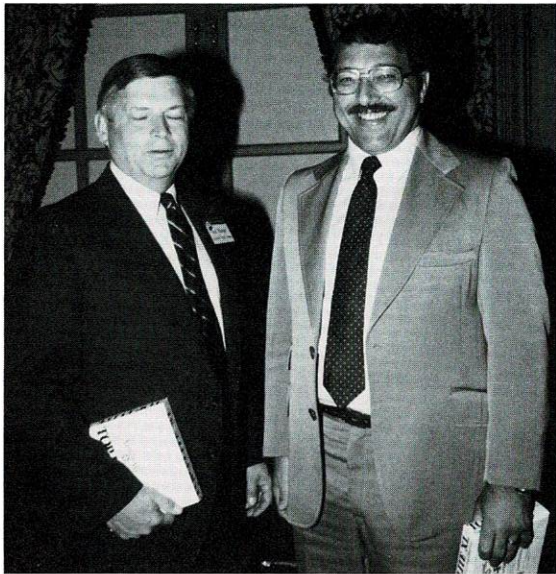
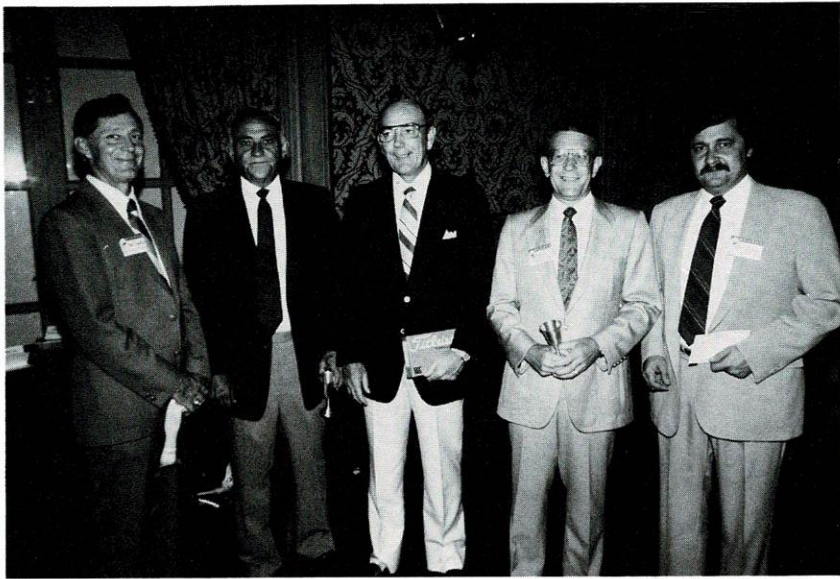
Grafton Coal Co. overwhelmed the competition, suiting up 14 strong to win the Company Pride Award. Shown left to right are 1st row: Charlie Miller, Susan Miller, Sally Compton, Becky Compton; 2nd Row: Jim Compton, Pat Ramsburg, Carol Skidmore, Nancy Righman, Gerald Ramsburg; 3rd row: Jim Christie, Susan Christie; 4th row: John Skidmore, Jerry Righman, Jeff Compton.

The Winners

Jim and Sally Compton accept the Company Pride Award from Association President Ben Greene.

Prize Winners

Golf



Golf

**Distance
Run**





Tennis



Skeet



The entire Association would like to express its deep appreciation for the generous contributions of those member companies providing prizes for the various tournaments at the Annual Meeting.

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Anderson Equipment Company — \$50 Gift Certificate
Beckwith Machinery Company — Golf Balls
Call Detroit Diesel Allison, Inc. — \$50 Gift Certificate

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Cecil I. Walker Machinery Co. — \$100 Gift Certificate
Crawford Equipment Company — Golf Balls
Crown Hill Equipment, Inc. — \$50 Gift Certificate
Cummins Cumberland, Inc. — \$50 Gift Certificate
Driltech Inc. — \$100 Gift Certificate
Independent Explosives Co. — Golf Balls
International-Hough/Division of Dresser Industries —
2 Golf Bags & 2 Putters

Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. — Golf Balls
Peerless Fuels, Inc. — \$100 Gift Certificate
Rish Equipment Co. — \$50 Gift Certificate
Sii Smith-Gruner — Coal Souvenir
Sovran Bank, N.A. — Golf Balls
Union Carbide Corporation — Gold Putter, Linde Star
Necklace and Golf Balls

Tennis

Anderson Equipment Company — \$50 Gift Certificate
Flat Top Insurance Agency — \$250 Gift Certificate
Ingersoll-Rand Company — \$50 Gift Certificate
International-Hough/Division of Dresser Industries —
2 Tennis Rackets

Trap

International-Hough/Division of Dresser Industries —
Men's & Ladies' Shooting Vest

Distance Run

International-Hough/Division of Dresser Industries —
2 Gift Certificates (Running Shoes)

Bingo

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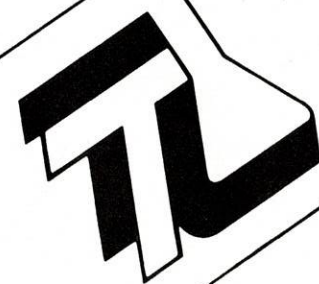
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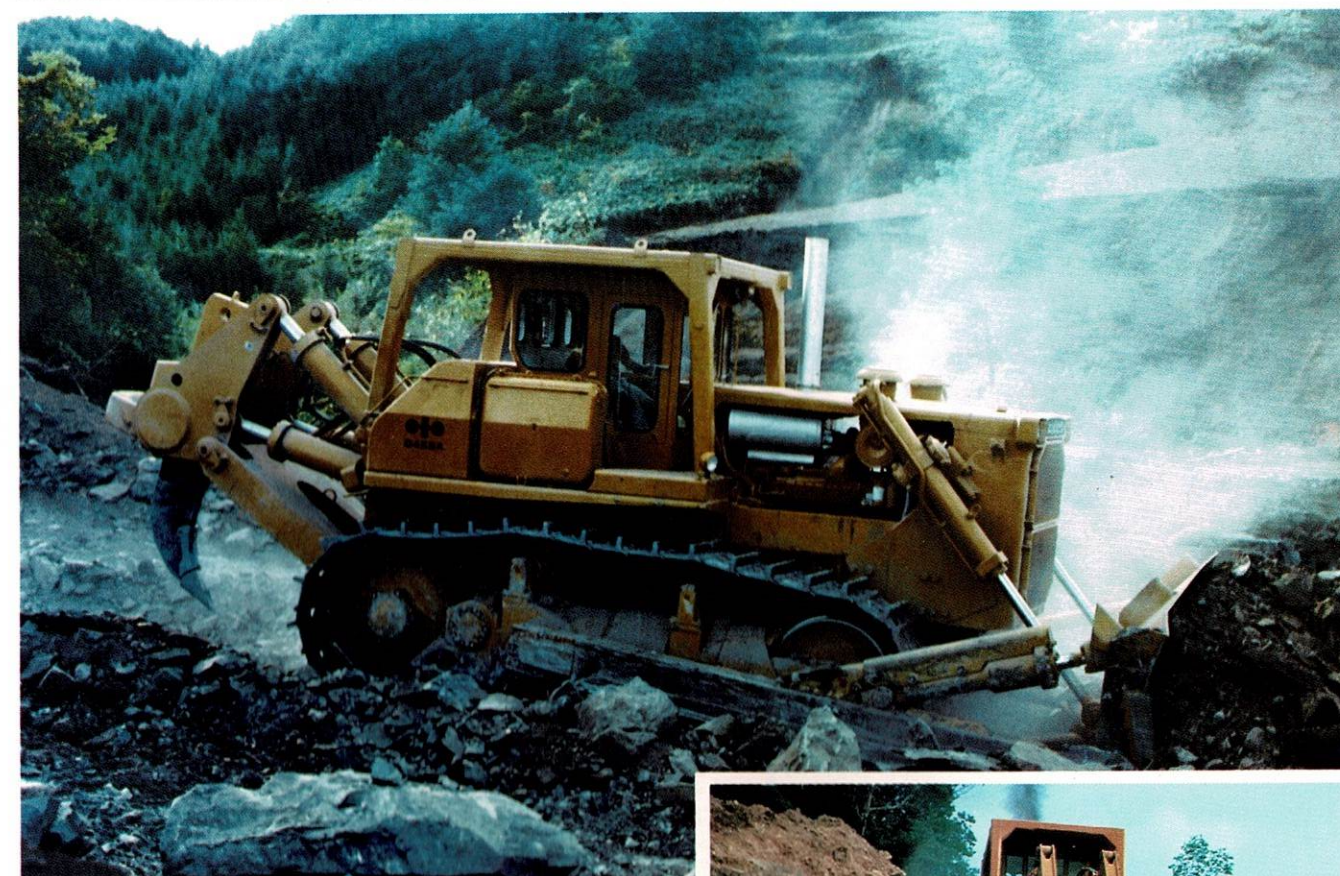
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