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Green Lands
Fall 2002

Last Issue

See page 16

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ON THE COVER: The very first Green Lands cover in the Fall 1971 also becomes the last. The picture is the elimination of a highwall done by A&S Coal Company in Greenbrier County. See page 16 for details about our new magazine.

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chairman's comments

By Jim Bunn, WVCA Chairman

Coal has always been a part of my life, but where do I go from here?

I am a native of West Virginia, born in Huntington and lived in East Lynn (Wayne County) until, at the age of six, my family moved to Grundy, Virginia. I spent the next 40 years (off and on) in Grundy, where we operated a family coal business. During that time, I attended Beckley College, Morris Harvey College, and West Virginia University, and operated several businesses within the state of West Virginia.

So, I truly feel that I've never left the state, and that coal has always been a part of who I am.

In 2001, coal production in West Virginia was more than 175 million tons (more coal than was mined in 1947 and 1948 when the after-the-war boom was at an all-time high). In the late 1940s, there were over 150,000 coal miners doing the same job that less than 15,000 miners do today. Advanced technology has improved productivity and safety. There are still enough recoverable or mineable coal reserves in West Virginia to rank it nationally as one of the top coal producing states.

Coal's primary use is for the generation of electricity. In fact, coal generates 52% of the electricity consumed in America each day. In West Virginia, that number rises to 99%!

So why aren't people rushing to get jobs in the mines or to support the mining industry?

Speaking frankly, our biggest issue in West Virginia is that we are seen by investors as an "antibusiness state." Both of Judge Haden's rulings on mountaintop mining were devastating to many coal companies. These companies made huge investments into developing coal properties, and now they can not get the permits to mine them. These are properties that years ago were considered unmineable, but thanks to advanced technology and equipment, that coal is now accessible. I am well aware that the very nature of mining minerals from the earth clearly has an impact on the environment, but the goal of responsible operators and regulatory agencies is to minimize the adverse effect of mining while maximizing resource recovery.

Labor issues are also a factor in the decision to

(See Chairman on page 42)

It's the End of An Era

Ben Greene and Patty Bruce Were a Large Part of Coal and the Association

The summer of 2002 marked a period of transition for the West Virginia coal industry and specifically for the West Virginia Coal Association.

Patty Bruce and Ben Greene, whose careers spanned a combined 61 years with the coal associations, both announced their retirements earlier this year. Both will be remembered as mainstays of the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association, which merged into WVCA in 2001.

PATTY BRUCE

The retirement of Patty Bruce marked the end of an extraordinary career of service to the coal industry. She was an integral part of the long and proud history of the West Virginia Mining & Reclamation Association. Her career was marked by a thoroughness and professionalism unsurpassed in the industry.

Patty retired after 36 years in a variety of positions with the West Virginia Mining Association and the West Virginia Coal Association.

A native of Belle, in eastern Kanawha County, Patty was one of two original employees of the West Virginia Surface Mine Institute, which was formed in 1966 to serve the interests of the surface coal industry. She had formerly worked for the West Virginia Legislature.

Dick Vande Linde was hired as the first executive director of the new organization and he hired Patty to complete his original staff. Dick and Patty opened the doors to the Institute in the old Kanawha Valley Building, later moving to an office on Virginia Street, and finally to the familiar office near the State Capitol on Kanawha Boulevard.

After nine years as secretary of the WVSMI, Patty was promoted to Office Manager of the expanded staff in 1975. Two years later, she was named assistant to the President, a position she held for 24 years until the merger of the West Virginia Mining & Reclamation with the West Virginia Coal Association, at which time she became Assistant to the Chairman.

In her 36 year tenure, Patty helped the associations through three office moves and three name changes, in addition to the 2001 merger of the two coal associations.

In that time she served four different executive officers, 35 chairmen, some three dozen staff members, hundreds of board directors and literally thousands of members, while overseeing preparations for all of the traditional Association functions, as well as scores of special meetings and seminars.

WVCA President Bill Raney worked with

A familiar site - Ben and Patty at registration during the West Virginia Mining Symposium.

Patty at WVMRA for 14 years and again with WVCA at the end of her career. "You can't really capture on paper what Patty has meant to this industry," said Raney. "She is pretty much synonymous with the Mining and Reclamation Association, and anybody who was ever a part of that organization will remember her with great warmth. We certainly wish her the best of everything in her retirement."

BEN GREENE

Ben Greene is a native of Ripley and a 1960 graduate of West Virginia University. Following his graduation, he was hired as one of the first two surface mine inspectors for the Department of Natural Resources. When the inspector staff expanded, Ben became the first reclamation supervisor and when DNR organized its Division of Reclamation, Ben Greene was its first chief. He served in that capacity until 1977, when he was named Deputy Director of DNR.

Later that year, he left state government to accept a position as President of the West Virginia Surface Mining & Reclamation Association. Ben remained at that post for the rest of his career, serving until the merger of the two coal associations in 2000, when he was named Chairman of the Association.

Ben's tenure at WVMRA coincided exactly with the onset of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. As President, it fell to Ben to guide the industry through the difficult transition period of implementing federal regulation and the endless litigation that followed. Under his guidance, West Virginia operators gained a reputation as the most innovative and technologically advanced state industry in the nation.

During his career, Ben was a member or director of virtually every important coal panel, task force and commission in the state. Among many other honors, he was a founding member of the American Society for Surface Mining & Reclamation and of the West Virginia Surface Mine Drainag Task Force. He has been recognized by the West Virginia Wildlife Federation as Conservationist of the Year.

Continued on page 47

WVCA Annual Meeting a Success

The West Virginia Coal Association held its Annual Meeting in early August 2002, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. More than 300 people attended this event, which was the second such meeting held since the merge of the West Virginia Coal Association and the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association.

The coal industry and its outlook in the political arena served as the main topic of this year's seminars. U.S Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito was on hand to introduce Gale Norton, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior. Norton gave WVCA members important insight into the federal government's current view of the industry.

"The President's Energy Policy says 'While coal is expected to remain the dominant fuel in meeting increasing U.S. electricity demand through 2020, energy policy goals must be carefully integrated with environment policy goals.

"I want to assure you that this Administration believes in environmentally responsible production of coal. Coal is the cornerstone of President Bush's comprehensive energy policy and the U.S. Department of the Interior is committed to supporting that plan."

(Above) Chairman Jim Bunn addresses the WVCA membership. (Below) Members gather to hear numerous speakers and discuss issues during the WVCA Annual Meeting.

Other key West Virginia government leaders who addressed the membership and gave their views on the political future of the industry included Robert S. Kiss, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Elliott E. "Spike" Maynard, Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and Joe Manchin, Secretary of State. A special appearance was made by Governor Bob Wise, who surprised the crowd with extemporaneous remarks during the Coal Miner's Party atop Kate's Mountain.

Notable presentations were also made by Mike Whitt of the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority, and Paul Hardesty of the West Virginia Coalfield Development Office.

In association business matters, the Board of Directors elected to a one-year term: Chairman of the Board, Jim Bunn, Kanawha Eagle; 1st Vice Chairman, Steve Capelli, Pen Coal; 2nd Vice Chairman, John Skidmore, Mountain Haus Properties; Secretary, Kevin Bealko, Bell Mining; Assistant Secretary, Randy Hansford, Riverton Coal Production, Inc.; Treasurer, Ralph Ballard, Asset Management; Assistant Treasurer, Andrew Jordon, Pritchard Mining; Associate Division Chairman, Dan Pochick, Rish Equipment; President, Bill Raney; Senior Vice President, Chris Hamilton; and, Vice President, Dan Miller.

Re-elected to the Board were: Paul Goad, Amvest Minerals Services, Inc.; Tracy Hylton, MIN, Inc.; Frank Matras, Horizon Resources; Gerald Ramsburg, Buffalo Coal Company; Wayne Stanley, Stanley Industries, Inc.; Steve Walker, Walker Machinery; and Steve Young, CONSOL Energy, Inc.

In addition, two new board members were elected to fill vacant positions. They were Don Blankenship, Massey Energy Company and Josef Ehrengruber, AMCI.

New members joining the Association were Massey Energy Company, Hollow Mountain Resources, Inc., Appalachian Fuels, LLC, Keystone Development, Liebherr Mining Equipment Company, Cattron-Theimeg, Inc. RGR Advisory Services and EOG Resources, Inc.

U.S Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito (left) was on hand to introduce Gale Norton, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior. Norton gave WVCA members important insight into the federal government's current view of the industry.

Bunn, as the new Chairman of the West Virginia Coal Association, spoke to the membership during the banquet in Colonial Hall at the Greenbrier, with musical entertainment provided by The Production Company.

During his speech, Chairman Bunn remarked that his main goal as chairman would be to ensure that the coal industry speaks with a unified, informed and strong voice in bringing to the forefront of the political and media arenas the importance of coal to the state and the nation as a reliable and efficient energy source.

"In West Virginia, with advance technology we have a bright future with coal," he said. "Good public relations are vital to the growth of our industry. We need to get the message out that coal is not dead - and not dirty - anymore! In a nation with an increasingly electrified economy, the job of getting our message out to the public takes on an even greater significance."

WVCA President Bill Raney said he was pleased at the attendance and commitment members have demonstrated this year through the industry's up and downs.

WVCA Annual Meeting Photo Gallery

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Greener Pastures

After 31 years, *Green Lands* is retiring making way for a new publication - *West Virginia Coal.*

Upon the merging of the W.Va. Mining and Reclamation Association and the W.Va. Coal Association in January 2000, the new West Virginia Coal Association represents the many dilemmas that the state's coal industry is facing today. Consequently, as approved by the board of directors in October of 2002, *Green Lands* will retire with this issue and the new *West Virginia Coal* magazine will emerge beginning in 2003. *West Virginia Coal* will be a full color quarterly magazine with increasing coverage of all areas of the industry as well as increasing circulation outside the industry.

"We intend on keeping the same high quality material that was seen in *Green Lands* with our new magazine, *West Virginia Coal*," said Jim Bunn, chairman of WVCA, "but we also intend on expanding in many other areas as well. Too many people are unaware of the positives of the West Virginia coal industry. We see *West Virginia Coal* as a strong vehicle that will heighten awareness of our industry throughout the state and the nation."

For more than 30 years, *Green Lands* has promoted West Virginia's coal industry, more specifically, the areas of surface mining and reclamation. Published quarterly since the fall of 1971, *Green Lands* was distributed to 49 states. The magazine began under the W.Va. Surface Mining and Reclamation President G.B. Frederick and Executive Director Dick Van Linde.

West Virginia Coal welcomes any comments, suggestions and story ideas about coal and related industries.

www.wvcoal.com

There's Something
Turning Green
in that House

Arch Coal Provides Riverside High School a Classroom on the Mountain

There is something green growing at Riverside High School. Students here are a part of a project initiated by Arch Coal's Samples mining operation in Kanawha County.

"There is strong interest of the teachers in their students at Riverside," said Conrad Larrabee, mine reclamation supervisor at Samples. "These folks go out of their way and are genuinely concerned about their students."

Arch Coal's "Classroom on the Mountain" project involves the high school students by growing tree seedlings at the school then going to the Samples mine to plant their portion of the tree seedlings.

"The kids enjoy it and this project has been beneficial for the community," said Science Teacher Richard "Whitey" Ferrell. "Right now, we have 67 kids working on the project out of three science classes - juniors, seniors and those in advanced environmental science," he said.

Ferrell noted that the project seemed to really take off when the students were able to plant seedlings at the mine site themselves.

"The kids realized what they could do when they were able to see the fruit of their labors," he said. "Now they are sold on it because they actually see the results from something they did physically. Then when the leaves came out, they took ownership very quickly." Ferrell would work the project into his science classes by reviewing the mechanics of plant growth and reproduction, discussing the biology of growing, as well as creating soils and making fertilizers.

"We will take the seed and

Conrad Larrabee of Arch Coal (left) and Riverside High School Science Teacher Richard "Whitey" Ferrell check some of the seddlinglings that will be planted at Catenary Coal by the students.

go through the entire growth process with the students, keeping a daily log of each tree's growth," Ferrell said. "They are always checking to make sure there is not a problem and if there is, then we try to determine the best course of corrective action."

The class travels to the Samples mine early in the process so they may understand exactly what and why they are doing this project.

"We went up to the mine to look at the different types of trees that we could grow and what is already up there," Ferrell said. "We want to make sure that we put back what was there in the first place."

Of course, Ferrell noted that the pros and cons of surface mining come into play with the students.

"Many of the kids that were against mountaintop mining early on," he said, "now see it differently. When we took them to the mine, they got to see the actual mining process, the reclaimed sites and everything in between. Once they saw the reclamation and they were involved in planting trees, their views began to change."

Soils the class used in growing their trees were taken from the mine site.

"We brought soil back from the mine site and mixed it with peat moss," said Ferrell. "This classroom was a mess! We had newspapers and dirt everywhere. You couldn't keep them out of it!"

Arch Coal's Samples operation in Kanawha County brings new meaning to the term "home grown."

Company officials have made a concerted effort to grow and plant trees entirely on location. The emphasis is on native species, such as white and red oak, hickory, butternut walnut, beech, sugar maple and American elm.

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survival rate by using the native species," said Conrad Larrabee, Samples Mine reclamation supervisor and leader of the project.

Employees are so excited about the project that they are collecting nuts and seeds that will be nurtured in a greenhouse located on the site, and eventually the seeds-turned-seedlings will be replanted on the former mine site.

"Employees are volunteering their own time to collect nuts and seeds from their yards and forests close to their neighborhood to be planted here," says Larrabee. "They are proud of their jobs and this operation and they want to see this project work."

Larrabee said that eventually there should be enough seeds for Samples mine to grow and plant its own seedlings.

"Right now, we have about 50,000 seedlings inside the greenhouse and we are capable of twice that," he said. "I also made three seed beds outside and I plan on having about 100,000 seedlings in the fall of 2003 to plant on our site. These seedling are growing at the same elevation, same geographic conditions, same soils, same everything as we have on the operation."

It would be an admirable project if company officials stopped there, but they dug a little deeper and expanded this project even more. They not only involved nearby Riverside High School students to grow some seeds at the school, but they have also recruited the help of West Virginia University and the NMLRC – through a Graduate Fellowship in 2002 to identify the best combination of topsoil and subsoil for the promotion of hardwood growth on reclaimed lands.

Students from Riverside High School plant seeds and acorns that eventually will be transplanted to reclaimed soil as a part of Arch Coal's Classroom on the Mountain project.

"I really believe that Arch and Peter Lawson (President of Catenary Coal and General Manager of Samples mine) have a genuine interest in being good stewards of the environment and to the community," Larrabee said. "They made some long-term commitments that I have not seen any place else in my 30-some-years in the coal industry."

The greenhouse, built on-site, is 36 feet by 98 feet with a metal and wood frame covered with two layers of plastic.

"We selected a spot facing the morning sun," Larrabee said.

Construction started in January 2002 and was completed in August.

The structure comes equipped with a furnace that burns recycled oil from the mining equipment, a cooling

Continued on page 34

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Trotting the Globe

Teams from the nation's best to those four time zones away travel to West Virginia to play in the Mountain State Coal Classic High School Basketball Tournament.

Just how far are teams willing to travel to play basketball in Beckley, West Virginia?

In the case of the 14th Annual Mountain State Coal Classic high school basketball tournament, the answer may be about "5,000 miles."

This year, Anchorage Christian School will be traveling from Anchorage, Alaska to Beckley, just to play basketball.

Quite a haul by anyone's standards.

"We almost had a team coming from Los Angeles, but that didn't work out," said Jim Justice, head of the Coal Classic and president of Bluestone Industries.

Scheduled for January 20-25, 2003, at the Raleigh County Armory, other teams scheduled to play in the boys AAA division include Coastal Christian, Virginia Beach; Heritage Christian Academy, Cleveland, Texas; defending Classic Champion, Oak Hill Academy, Mouth of Wilson, Va.; Greenbrier East High School, Lewisburg, W.Va.; Parkersburg South High School, Parkersburg, W.Va.; St. Albans High School, St. Albans, W.Va.; and host Woodrow Wilson High School.

Since moving to Beckley ten years ago, the Classic has become one of the premier high school basketball tournaments in the nation and has attracted nationally ranked teams with high caliber talent to West Virginia.

In 1998, fans watched Woodrow Wilson standout Tamar Slay one last time before moving on to Marshall University. Slay was drafted into the NBA in the second round (54th overall) by the New Jersey Nets this year.

In 1999, teams that were ranked 3rd, 4th and 12th in the nation played in the tournament. Classic fans were in awe of DeSagana Diop, the seven footer with Oak Hill Academy who skipped college and was a first round draft pick into the NBA by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2001.

Last year, fans were able to see one of the top five players in the nation, 6 foot 7 inch Carmelo Anthony, who now plays for Syracuse University.

This year Oak Hill will bring forward Ivan Harris who is considered one of the top 15

DeSagana Diop, Oak Hill Academy (right), blocks a shot by Kevin Saunders of Woodrow Wilson during the Classic's championship game in 2001. Diop skipped college and was a first round draft pick into the NBA by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

players in the nation and has already signed with Ohio State. At least three of Oak Hill starters have already signed to play at Division 1-A colleges next year.

Also, Jill Justice, senior at Greenbrier East, recently signed to play at Clemson University.

USA Today and *PrepStars.com* rank Oak Hill Academy the number one team in the nation for 2003. This will be their fourth year coming to Beckley. They are Classic champions three years running and are favorites to win this year. After just four games into the regular season, Oak Hill averaged 102 points per game.

***USA Today* and *PrepStars.com* ranked Oak Hill Academy as the preseason number one team in the nation for 2003.**

"I look for things like good competition, how the tournament is run and how they take care of you," said Oak Hill Head Coach Steve Smith. "Hospitality is as important as anything for us in a tournament and in Beckley, they do a lot of nice things for you."

Although this is arguably the best high school basketball tournament in the state, Justice acknowledges that there are a lot of people working behind the scenes, "and without them it wouldn't work," he said. "The excitement is always there. People looking forward to see what is going to happen next year as soon as this year is over. We think it can only get better."

There is only one good way to start 2003 - the Mountain State Coal Classic.

Basketball Gets Its Justice

Jim Justice sees the Mountain State Coal Classic as something a little different than just a tournament

When it comes to high school basketball, coaches from across the country associate the name "Jim Justice" with the Mountain State Coal Classic. They want their teams to be a part of the selected few that play in the Beckley tournament that takes place every January.

Some would say that's a good problem to have.

"I am constantly having schools wanting to be in it, not only from within the state, but from all over the country," said Justice, who heads up the tournament.

Yet, Justice does not do it for the glamour of having nationally ranked teams in Beckley. He says it is imperative to make sure the players and cheerleaders are the beneficiaries of this tournament.

"The Coal Classic is about a lot more than a buzzer-beater game," Justice said. "It's about a positive experience for kids. It's about what the coal industry does for West Virginia, for the people and for our children. It's about giving scholarships that will help a student's future."

By making the Classic a little different, there is not a

Continued on page 33

14th Annual
Mountain State Coal Classic

JANUARY 20 – 25, 2003

Boys AAA

Anchorage Christian School
Anchorage, Alaska

Coastal Christian
Virginia Beach, Va.

Greenbrier East High School
Lewisburg, W.Va.

Heritage Christian Academy
Cleveland, Texas

Oak Hill Academy
Mouth of Wilson, Va.

Parkersburg South High School
Parkersburg, W.Va.

St. Albans High School
St. Albans, W.Va.

Woodrow Wilson High School
Beckley, W.Va.

Boys AA

Westside High School
Oceana, W.Va.

Independence High School
Sophia, W.Va.

Poca High School
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Justice Signs with Clemson

It seems as though Jill Justice is becoming a tiger.

A Clemson Tiger.

The 5-foot-11 Greenbrier East senior shooting guard made it official by signing an NCAA National Letter of Intent on the first day of the early signing period during a ceremony at the high school and faxing it to the Atlantic Coast Conference school in South Carolina.

"I always wanted to go somewhere in the southeast part of the United States," she said. "And I think anyone who plays basketball dreams of playing in the ACC."

During this past summer, Justice played basketball with the West Virginia Breakers. The Breakers won the championship at the Las Vegas Girls High School Elite All-Star Division national tournament and they also took first place at the Beach Ball Spring Blast in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and the AAU Seacoast Shootout in New Hampshire. The Breakers finished fourth in the national YBOA tournament, with Justice garnering All-American honors. Justice is an all-around athlete. She was named to the first-team Class AAA all-state volleyball team last season, named captain of the second-team AAA all-state basketball squad and was the No. 1 seed on the Greenbrier East tennis team.

Justice also help the Greenbrier East advanced to the girl's state tournament for the first time in more than a decade by sinking 70 three-point shots last season.

The daughter of Jim and Cathy Justice, Jill has a 3.7 grade-point average.

Justice from page 29

"most valuable player" named nor is there an "all tournament team" selected. In doing so, a $500 college scholarship is awarded to one player and one cheerleader from each team. The Classic is responsible for awarding close to $200,000 in college scholarships during its tenure.

"We reward heart and hustle in basketball players and cheerleaders. Cheerleaders work awful hard too," Justice said. "Just think of all of the kids that this tournament has positively impacted, whether it's someone getting a scholarship so they can continue their education or a kid in elementary school playing in front of thousands of people at halftime."

Justice, president of Bluestone Industries, said he wants this tournament to stick in everyone's mind that the coal industry is doing something good for West Virginia.

"Our industry is proud of what we do and we need the public to see all the good things too. We (the coal industry) do a lot of good for this state and most of it goes unnoticed. That's why I came

Continued on page 44

Arch from page 23

system that keeps the temperature constant, a backup generator, and lights that stay on 24 hours a day. An automatic sprinkling system that comes on four times a day for 12 minutes each time draws water from an adjacent pond for proper irrigation.

"The biggest problem we've had is keeping bears out of the greenhouse," Larrabee said, "so we constructed a 6 foot chain-link fence around the facility. Bears have walked though the greenhouse several times without using the door!"

To find the best way to ensure that seedlings will grow and become established, company officials have enlisted the expertise of West Virginia University to do research on the site.

"We have 17 research plots with different soil mixtures and all planted in the same native species of trees," Larrabee said. "We are using different soils and growth media at different locations to see which will produce the best growth of the trees over a period of five years."

Larrabee said they are monitoring tree species and studying what soil conditions are best.

Until recently, the company's greenhouse served its purpose in a conventional way. Now, however, company officials have turned a portion of the facility into a "hen house" in hopes of increasing Bob White quail population.

Continued on page 46

Students from Chesapeake and Sharon Dawes elementary School study Bob Whites on Catenary Coal's operation.

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Straight Shooter

Aiming at a different approach to reclamation

Company officials at Arch Coal's Hobet operation and soon at Pritchard Mining are aiming in a different direction when it comes to recreation on reclaimed sites.

Just a few years ago, Arch Coal officials opened Hill Top Hunting Preserve on 1,600 acres of land, which included a sporting clays course. Hill Top has hosted The Hobet Cup, the state's only national sporting clays competitions. In September, a pistol range was completed on the site near the administrative offices.

At the Lens Creek #1 mine of Pritchard Mining Company, officials are working to open their own shooting range that could accommodate rifle and pistol.

"We hope to have it open in the spring of next year," said Andrew Jordon, president of Pritchard Mining.

Currently, the Boone County Sheriff's Department uses the pistol range at Hobet for practice as well as qualifying its deputies.

"Right now it is used just by local law enforcement officials," said Steve Dula, General Manager at Hobet. "Soon, we'll open to the public, just like Hill Top."

Located in Boone County, the pistol range, based on NRA design, has 16 stations and a shooter can be up to 50 yards away from the target. Four rows of old conveyor belts are used as stops for bullets. As an additional safety precaution, a 12-foot mound encircles the facility.

"It seems to be working better than what we envisioned," said Rodney Miller, Chief Deputy for the Boone County Sheriff's Department. "We were trying to come up with a system that would be safe, that would not have a bunch of ricochets

(Top photo) Rodney Miller, Chief Deputy for the Boone County Sheriff's Department (right) instructs a Boone County deputy during shooting practice at Hobet's new pistol range. (Bottom photo) Different law enforment presonnel from Boone County use the pistol range during qualifications.

Continued on page 44

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Chariman *from page 5*

locate a business in West Virginia. For many years, coal mining has been portrayed in a negative way. This has got to change.

Today's miners do not fit this image. In fact, in my opinion, I think West Virginia miners are the best in the world. Miners are encouraged to train and take classes in what is becoming a very specialized career, and many are college-educated. Mines have become a safer place to work because of it.

Another issue facing the coal industry is trucking load limits. The trucking issue in West Virginia may prove to be the last straw for many companies. Our neighboring state of Kentucky has modernized their "load limits" for trucking to 60 tons and, to date, has not seen an increase in related road accident deaths. The same proposal to raise "load limits" in West Virginia is bogged down in the state legislature.

As responsible business people, we shouldn't depend solely on coal mining to save our state. One prime example is McDowell County in southern West Virginia, which at one time was the most populated county in the state, and is now without the resources to attract or encourage new businesses. The practice of depending on sever-

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ance tax funds to pay day-to-day expenses, and not using those funds to develop infrastructure for future industries, must change. Only the first $18 million is dedicated to the retirement of industrial service bonds, such as water, sewage, and garbage. Local governments, as well as the businesses that operate there, know that they must change to survive.

So where are we going from here—and is there hope for the state's largest industry? Yes! As any responsible business, we face challenges. As we meet these challenges, we must respond in positive ways.

All of the problems I've talked about can be solved, but we cannot be successful unless we find a way to mine the coal and still be a welcome industry in our state. We must create a solid partnership between government and industry, take progressive steps to ensure stewardship of our natural resources, allow our coal miners to work and support their families, and establish stability to the supply side of the industry.

The coal industry is America's best energy friend and most abundant, secure energy source. With the present state of affairs in our nation and its need for energy, we can be proud that we, as West Virginians, can make a difference!

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Pistol Range from page 38

and would keep the lead from going into the dirt. The used conveyor belts are convenient, economical and they are working perfectly. It would be hard to find a better location than this anywhere in the state."

Miller said he also likes the drainage system of the range and the fact that the gravel is designed to have very little maintenance.

"We can take vehicles out on the gravel to practice and not have to worry about drainage after a rain," he said.

Hobet's engineers designed the pistol range by following National Rifle Association specifications for the facility.

"We worked closely with the NRA when we were building this," Dula said. "With a full public operation a person could get can get NRA training in pistols, shotguns, and small bore rifles. We thought this would be a good service for the local community. There is not a facility like this anywhere close to here."

Prior to the range opening, the Boone County Sheriff's Department did not have a defined practice or certification location and had to find the best available place.

"We used a little bit of everything before this," Miller said. "We used some ranges that were out of the county and in some cases we would just find a location up a hollow that was safe."

Justice
from page 33

up with the slogan 'Coal be Proud.'"

The Mountain State Coal Classic originated in Charleston in 1989. It lasted there only a few years where attendance totaled less than 2,000 during the entire tournament.

Justice was instrumental in moving the tournament to Beckley in 1994. Last year, the attendance was more than 21,000 during the six-day event.

"I have a real passion for kids and a passion for our industry," Justice said. "I also have a lot of good people helping me behind the scenes to make this work."

"We (the coal industry) do so much good, I wanted everybody to see what we are doing to help our communities," he said.

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Mingo Logan Coal Company Receives National Recognition for Twisted Gun Golf Course

The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining and the National Mining Association honored Arch Coal for demonstrating the best reclamation practices of the past year.

A 2002 Excellence in Surface Mining Award was presented to Arch's Mingo Logan mining complex in southern West Virginia for development of an 18-hole golf course.

"Our objective is to restore the land in ways that will serve the needs of surrounding communities long after mining is completed," said Arch Coal's President and CEO Steven F. Leer. "The men and women at

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Twisted Gun from page 45

these two operations have demonstrated that great things can be achieved on reclaimed lands through the application of creative thinking, careful planning, and excellent reclamation practices."

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, in announcing the winners, called their reclamation a "true testament to the great strides and achievement the coal industry has made toward stewardship and protection of the environment."

Mingo Logan's Low Gap Surface Mine was transformed over six years into a world-class 18-hole golf course for public use. The development of the Twisted Gun Golf Course was integrated into the normal mining reclamation process -and paid for through contributions from Arch Coal, Premium Energy Corp., and Pocahontas Land Corp. on every ton of coal mined.

Until now, the counties of Mingo, McDowell and Logan did not have an 18-hole golf course due to the great expense of course development in the region's mountainous terrain.

Earlier this year, the West Virginia Coal Association in conjunction with the Dept. of Environmental Protection awarded Arch Coal with the state's top reclamation honor for the development of the golf course.

The Dept. of Interior's Office of Surface Mining, the agency responsible for regulating the environmental impacts of coal production, presents the award each year.

Arch Coal's Mingo Logan operation received national honors for its newly created Twisted Gun Golf course in Mingo County. The course was built with contributions from Arch Coal, Premium Energy Corp., and Pocahontas Land Corp. on every ton of coal mined from the operation. Pictured are (l-r): John Payne, Pocahontas Land Corp.; Kenny Nicewonder, Premium Energy Corp.; Cliff Frye, Mingo Logan; Steve Leer, Arch Coal; Wayne Hawley, Mingo Logan; Jim Mullins, Mingo Logan; Larry Damron, Mingo Logan; Don Nicewonder Premium Energy Corp. and Kevin Nicewonder, Premium Energy Corp.

Arch from page 34

"We let 50 loose in October," Larrabee said. "On an undisclosed location," he added jokingly.

"We have 20 females and 20 males in the structure," he said. "At the end of a 30-day period, we should generate 500 to 600 eggs. We should be able to double the volume of birds in the winter months, which will let us turn loose about 5,000 birds on the property every year.

"We think this is a good step in bringing the population of the Bob White quail back."

Ben and Patty

from page 7

With more than 40 years at the helm of both the regulatory and production aspects of the industry, Ben Greene is arguably the foremost expert on surface mining issues in the world.

Coal Association President Bill Raney worked under Ben at DNR, then moved with him to the Mining Association, where they worked together for 14 years.

"Ben Greene was truly my mentor through the first half of my career," commented Raney. "We worked together through the early days of DNR, through all the good times and hard times at WVMRA and we continued to work together after I moved to WVCA. Ben has been a great teacher and a tremendous force for the coal industry. He provided the necessary leadership of the surface coal industry through a time when its very survival was on the line."

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Coalmanac 2003

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8-10 **30th Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium,** Charleston House Holiday Inn, Charleston, W.Va.

16 **Tug Valley Mining Institute meeting**, Brass Tree Restaurant, Williamson, W.Va.

19 **Mountain State Coal Classic Banquet,** Raleigh County Armory, Beckley, W.Va.

20-25 **Mountain State Coal Classic Basketball Tournament,** Raleigh County Armory, Beckley, W.Va.

Feburary

2-5 **International Society of Explosives Engineers 29th Annual Conference,** Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. www.isee.org.

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15 -16 **Surface Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium,** Ramada Inn Morgantown, W.Va.

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