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- Dozing in a straight line during side-cutting
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KOMATSU

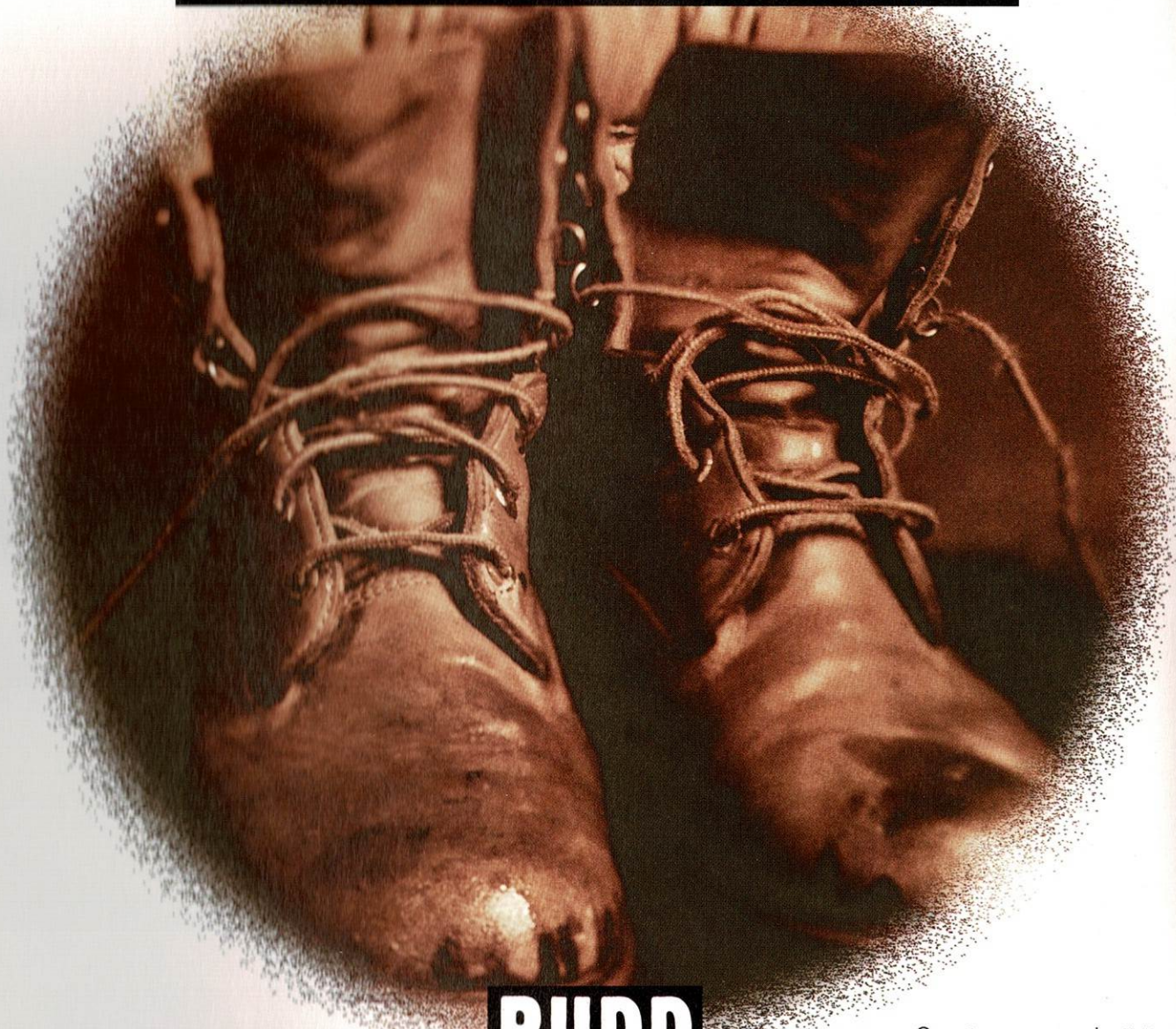
Rish
EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Green Lands

Summer 1996



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1966

1966 Was a Very Good Year.

It was the year the U.S. spacecraft Surveyor 1 made the first lunar landing. Honeywell invented the laser gyroscope. The Houston Astrodome was opened. Jim Ryan ran the first 3-minute mile. The hit television show Star Trek began.

1966 was a year of great happenings and important beginnings. It was the year the West Virginia Mining and Reclamation Association was founded. It was, indeed, a very good year.

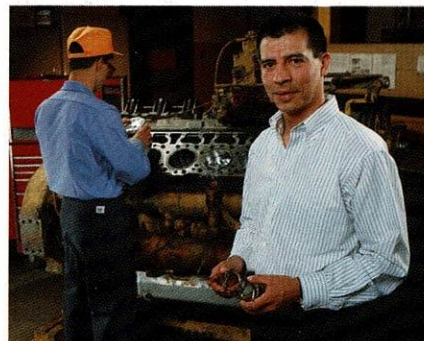
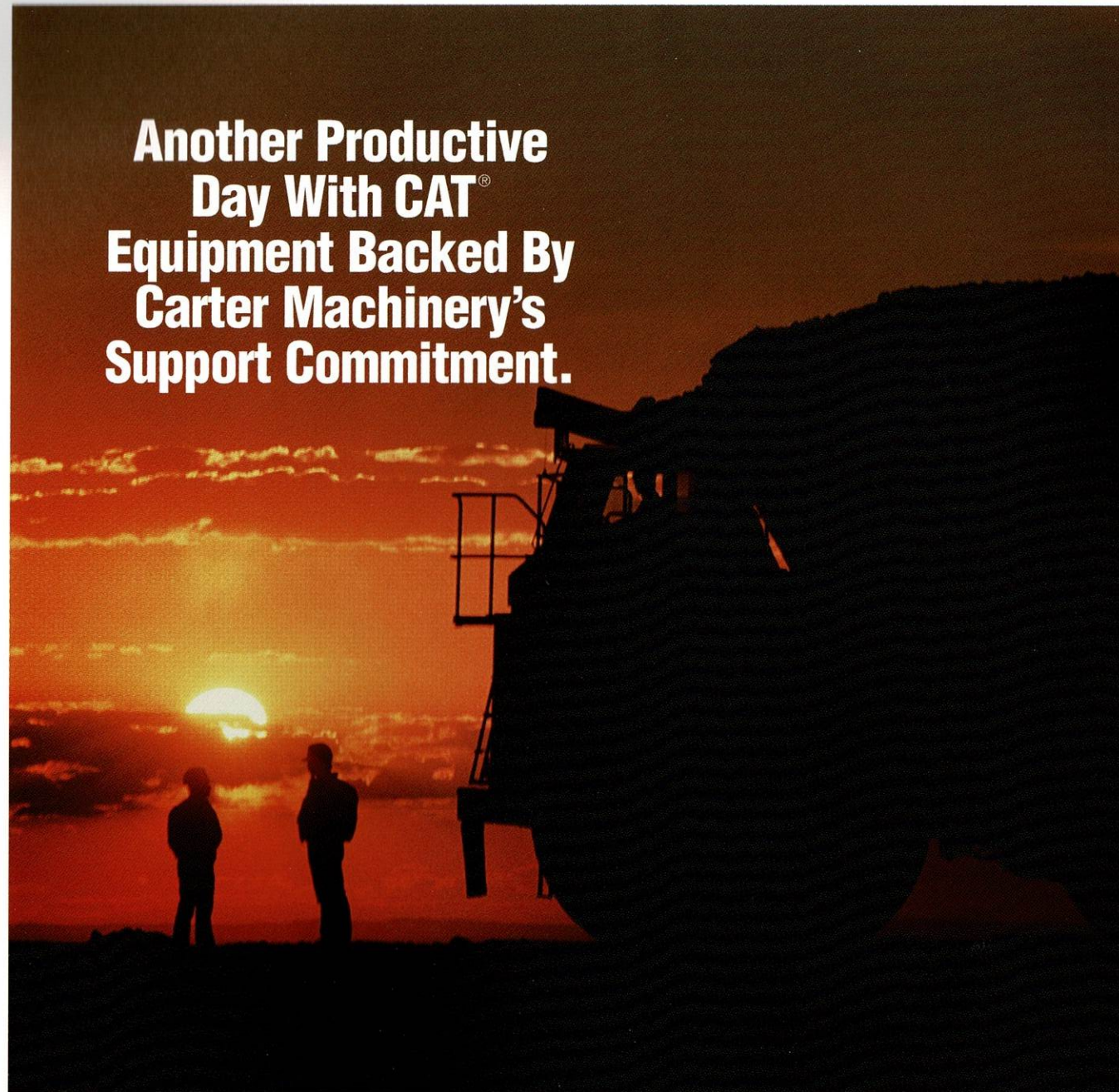
Rudd Equipment Company congratulates the WVMRA and their many achievements over the last 30 years.



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1996

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Green Lands

Volume 26 Number 3

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Green Lands
is a quarterly publication of the
West Virginia Mining & Reclamation Association,
with offices at 1624 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25311
(304) 346-5318, FAX 346-5310.



Our Cover
Our cover and this entire issue of
Green Lands is devoted to a celebration of the 30th
Anniversary of WVMRA, an accomplishment
in which all members, past and present,
can take great pride.

WVMRA Staff & Board of Directors

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Assistant to the President
Patty Bruce

Business Manager
Mary Ann Steele

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Congratulations to WVMRA on 30 Years of Service to West Virginia!

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Green

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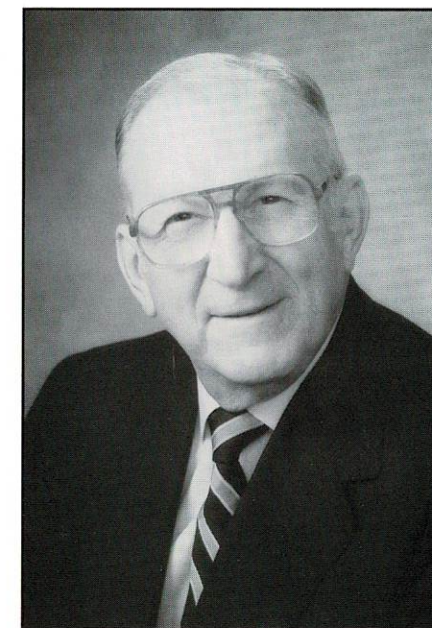
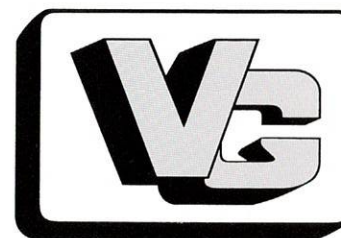
CAT

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Vecellio & Grogan, Inc. joins in celebrating the 30th Anniversary
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and conveys best wishes for continued success.



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Reclamation Association

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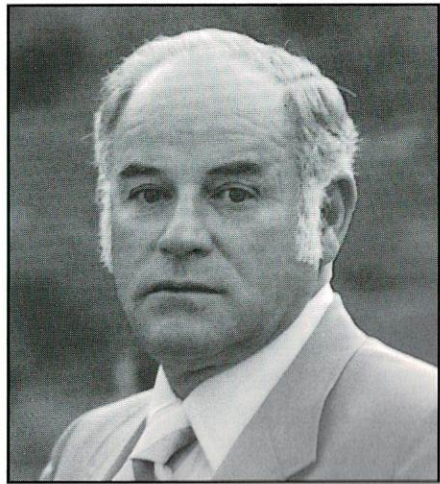
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F.B. Nutter, Sr. 1967-68



Leo Vecellio, Sr. 1966-67



Arch F. Sandy, Jr. 1968-69

Gallery



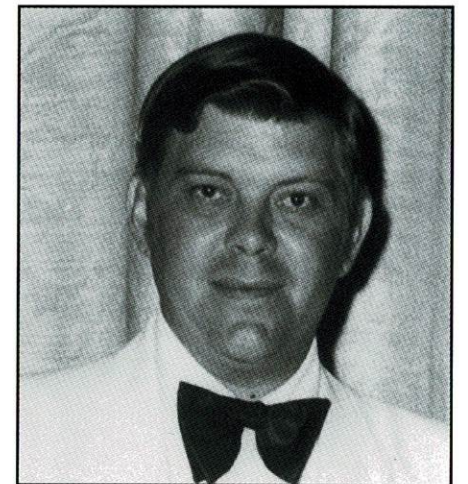
John C. Anderson, 1970



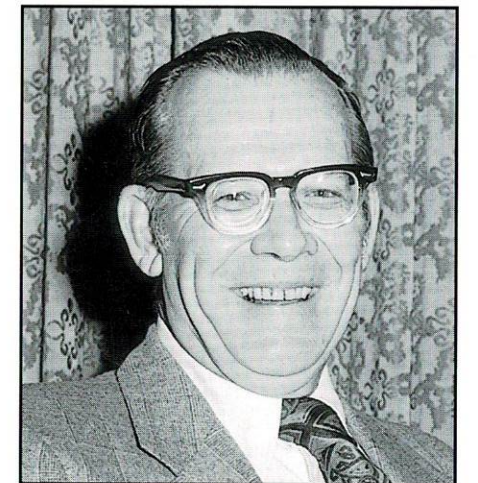
G. B. Frederick 1971-1972



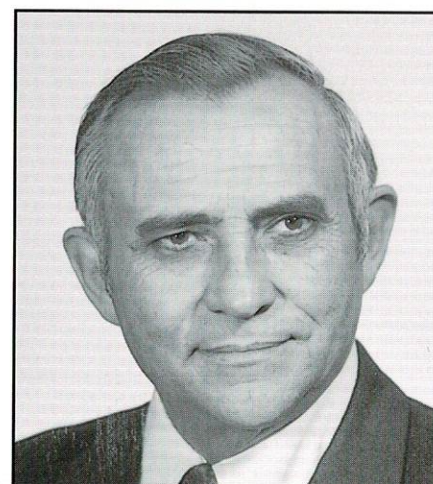
K. Donald Nicewonder 1995-96



James L. Wilkinson 1972-73



Lawson W. Hamilton, Jr. 1973-74



James C. Justice, Sr. 1974-75



H. L. Kennedy 1975-76

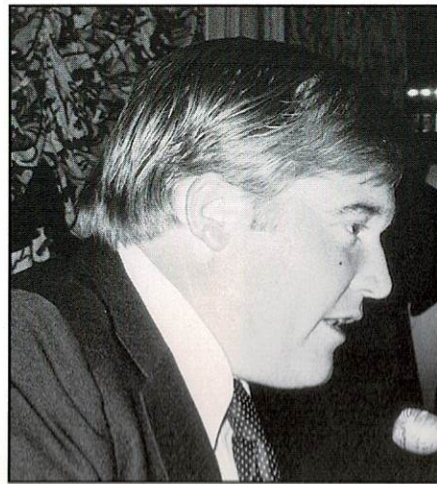


Frank D. Jennings 1976-77

WVMRA Chairmen from 1966-1996



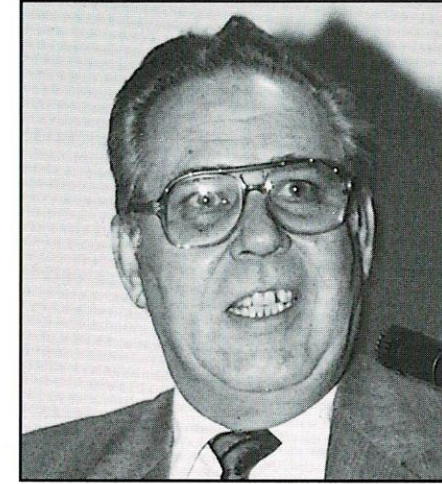
James H. Harless 1977-78



John J. Faltis 1978-79



Charles T. Jones 1979-80



Theodore J. Brisky 1986-87



James W. Anderson 1987-88



Roy G. Lockard 1988-89



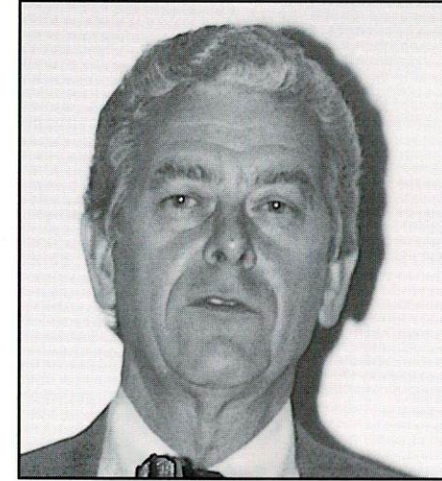
Lawrence A. Streets 1980-81



William C.M. Butler, III 1981-82



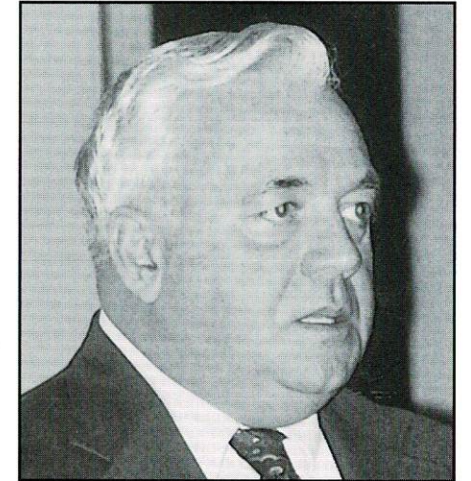
Donald R. Donell 1982-83



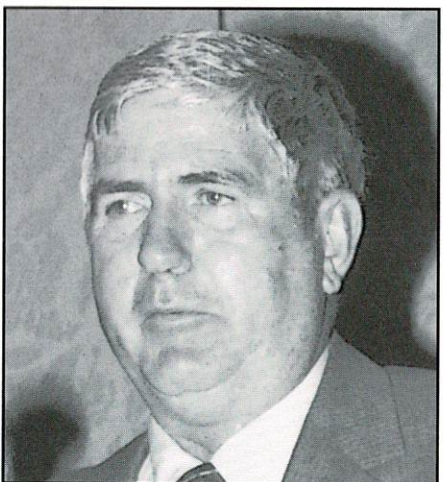
Paul F. Hutchins 1989-90



Kenneth G. Woodring 1990-91



R. Donald Cussins 1991-92



Tracy W. Hylton 1983-84



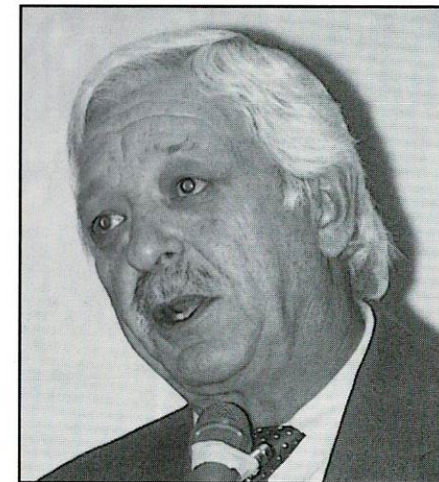
Carl DelSignore 1984-85



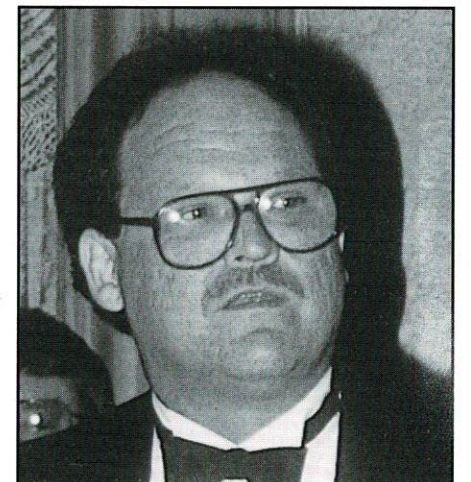
Dwight M. Keating 1985-86



Gerald W. Ramsburg 1992-93



John R. Bryan 1993-94



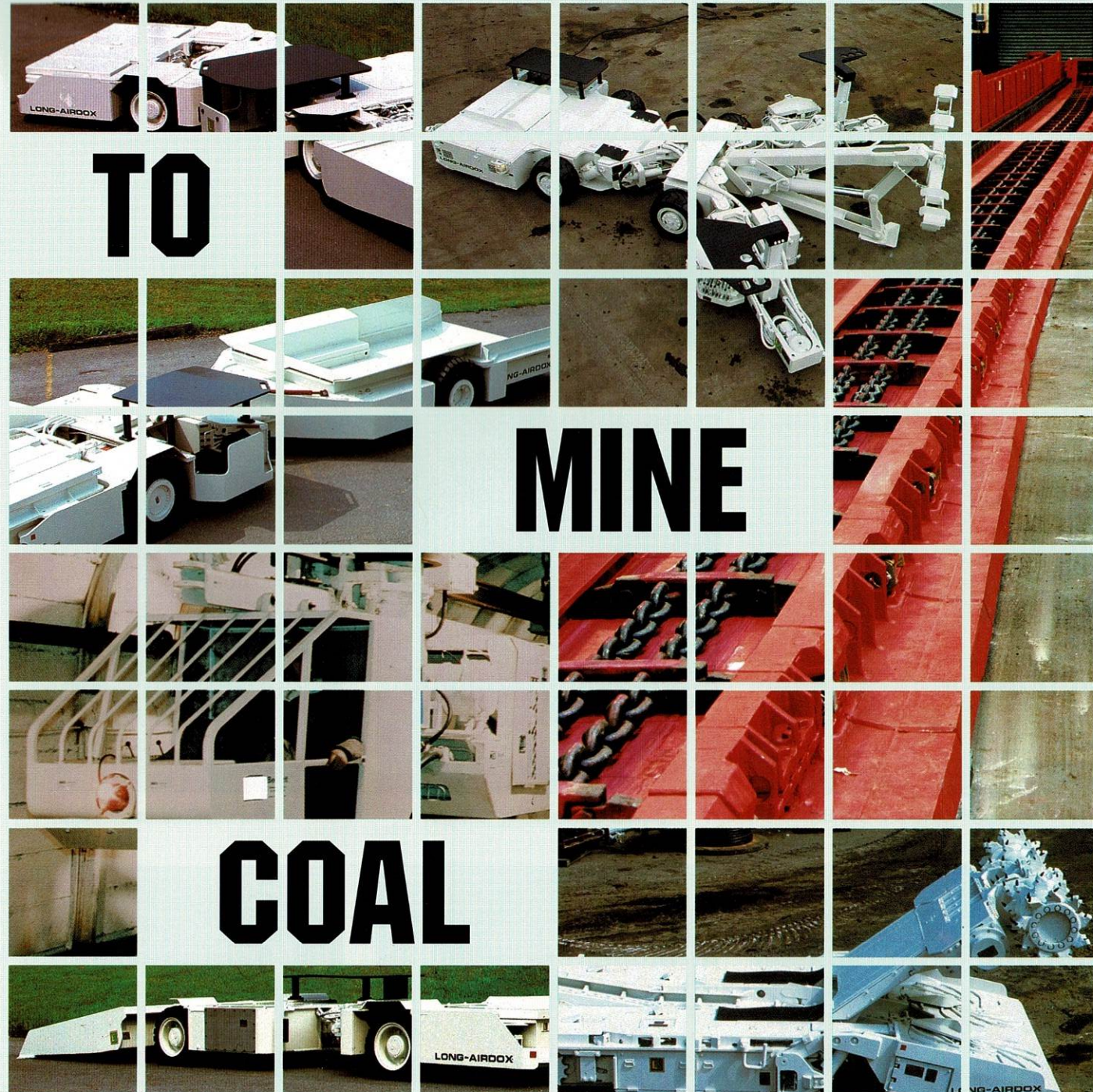
Sidney R. Young, III 1994-95

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to improving the lives and environment
of West Virginia's people



The first Board of Directors, shown in 1966. Clockwise from the left are Ed Wode, James D. LaRosa, Milford Jenkins, Jack Turner, Gil Frederick, Fil Nutter, Association Executive Director Dick Vande Linde, President Leo Vecellio, Sr., Arch Sandy, J. Wade Bell, Jim Wilkinson, Frank Boggess, Fred Shaulis (guest), Jack Baldini, and Orville Thomas. Absent from the picture are L.C. Basham, Ike Lewis, Roy Long, Harry Phillips and Sherwood Sparks.

Board of Directors 1966-1996

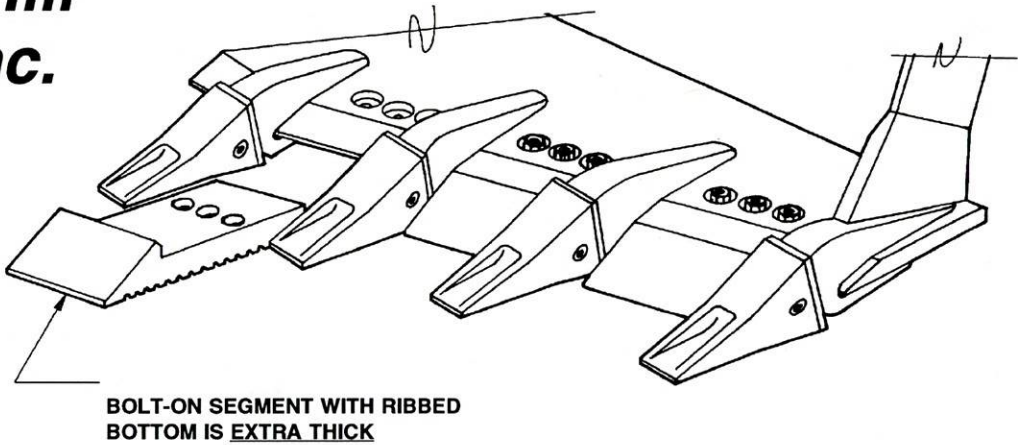
boldface indicates honorary Board membership

ADKINS, Donald E.	1979-82	CAMPBELL, James I.	1995-96
ANDERSON, James W.	1978-81, 1984-96	CANFIELD, Floyd B.	1984-87
ANDERSON, John C.	1967-74	CAPPELLARI, A.S.	1967-72
BALDINI, Jack A.	1966-68, 1970-72	CARTWRIGHT, Dan P.	1990-91
BARKOFSKE, Frank L.	1992-94	CLINE, Winston E.	1979-82
BASHAM, E.B.	1974-80	COMPTON, C.E.	1972-87, 1990-96
BASHAM, L.C.	1966-67	COMPTON, James M.	1987-94
BEALCO, K. J.	1993-96	COOPER, Donald K.	1987-92
BELL, J. Wade, Jr.	1966-67	CUSSINS, R. Donald	1985-96
BILLITER, John B.	1991	DAMRON, K.O.	1991-92
BLANKENSHIP, D.C.	1994-96	DAUD, Ben H.	1989-91
BLISS, Robert L.	1984-87	DEARTH, Bernie E., Jr.	1987-91, 1992-96,
BOGGESE, Frank C.	1966-69	DELATORE, Richard	1984-89
BOLEN, Richard B.	1993-96	DELSIGNORE, Carl	1976-79, 1980-85
BRISKY, Theodore J.	1983-90	DIRICO, William A.	1991-94
BROSHEARS, William E.	1994-96	DONELL, Donald R.	1978-96
BROWN, Charles T.	1974-76	DOTSON, Terry L.	1979-82, 1986-89
BRYAN, John R.	1985-96	ELLISON, Lonnie D.	1973-76
BUTLER, William C.M., III	1976-87	ESSEKS, Robert D.	1972-73

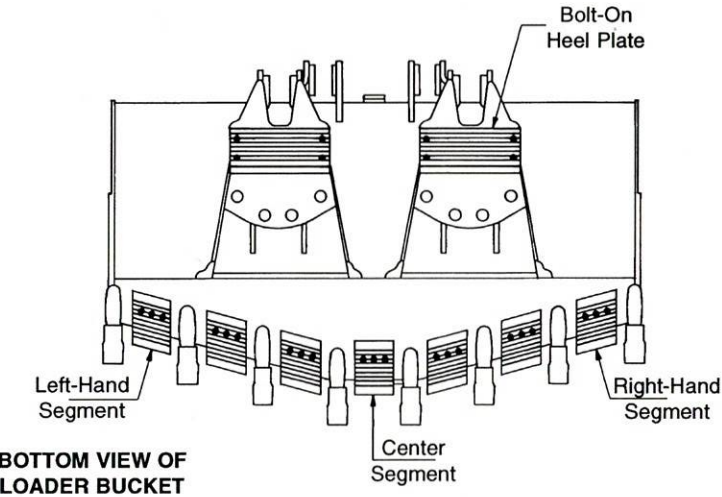
FAIRCHILD, Jack R.	1968-75, 1980-86	POCHICK, Daniel T.	1987-90, 1995-96
FALTIS, John J.	1976-80, 1981-94	POINDEXTER, James M.	1979-81
FITCH, Roger D.	1991-93	POLINO, James G.	1967-69
FOLIO, Bernard J.	1971-79	PORRECA, David M.	1981-83
FORBES, William J.	1981-84		
FREDERICK, G. B.	1966-1979	RADER, John B.	1992-95
GASKILL, Paul F.	1968-72	RAINES, Robert L.	1989-92, 1993-96
GRANEY, Patrick C., III	1989-92	RAMSBURG, Gerald R.	1988-96
GREEN, V. N.	1974-76	RITCHIE, William S., Jr.	1977-85
HAMILTON, Lawson W., Jr.	1968-89, 1989-96	SANDY, Arch F., Jr.	1966-73
HARLESS, James H.	1974-96	SCAGGS, A.D.	1967-70
HARTLEY, Gerald	1980-84	SCHERDER, Daniel B.	1992-94
HARVEY, Bill W.	1979-84	SCHOLL, Earl	1967-74
HIBBS, David R.	1995-96	SKIDMORE, John K.	1995-96
HILL, John C.	1988-90	SMITH, John C.	1993-96
HORN, Tom L., Jr.	1971-74, 1977-80	SNYDER, Duane C.	1971-72, 1975-77
HUDAK, Mike	1983-85	SPARKS, Sherwood E.	1966-71
HUFFMAN, David E.	1988-92, 1993-96	STANLEY, Wayne H.	1993-96
HULL, John E.	1988-91	STEVENS, Rogers C., Jr.	1980-85
HUTCHINS, Paul F.	1985-96	STIDHAM, Garnie A.	1973-79
HYLTON, Tracy W.	1978-96	STREETS, Lawrence A.	1972-73, 1977-95, 1995-96
JENKINS, Milford C.	1966-68, 1982-85	STURM, John W.	1977-78, 1984-87
JENNINGS, Frank D.	1971-81	SUPCOE, J. Christopher	1992-95
JERAN, Robert H.	1979-83	SURGEON, Edward F.	1976-79, 1986-89, 1990-93, 1994-95
JOHNSTON, C. I.	1971-79	SWANSON, G.R.	1977-80
JONES, Charles T.	1975-91	TATTERSALL, William J.	1974-79
JONES, Herbert E., Jr.	1974-75	TEETER, Andrew K.	1982-85
JORDAN, C. Lee	1984-87	THOMAS, Orville R.	1966-68, 1976-79
JUSTICE, James C., Jr.	1993-96	TINSLEY, Rhein H.	1980-83
JUSTICE, James C., Sr.	1970-93, 1993-96	TURNER, John K.	1966-67, 1971-74
KEATING, Dwight M.	1979-88	URDA, Richard B.	1987-90
KEBBLISH, John	1971-73	VARGO, Theodore R.	1983-86
KENNEDY, H. L.	1973-79	VECELLIO, Leo A., Sr.	1966-69
KOSNOSKI, Robert L.	1980-83	VIGNEAULT, Frank W.	1972-80, 1981-84, 1985-87
LADD, Markus J.	1991-96	WALKER, D. Stephen	1991-94
LAROSA, James D.	1966-70	WEBER, P. H.	1968-73
LAROSA, James J.	1985-94	WELCH, Richard N.	1977-81, 1982-85, 1986-88
LASKODY, Paul A., Jr.	1990-96	WELFORD, John H.	1991-94, 1995-96
LASKODY, Paul A., Sr.	1987-90	WHITE, James R.	1978-84, 1985-87
LEWIS, Ike	1966-67	WHITE, Mark A.	1995-96
LOCKARD, Roy G.	1975-77, 1983-92	WHYTE, Thomas	1973-75
LONG, David E.	1993-95	WILKINSON, James L.	1966-73
LONG, Robert C.	1973-79	WILLIAMS, Edward M.	1983-86
LONG, Roy S.	1966-68	WILLIAMS, J.R.	1982-83
MCCURRY, J. G.	1967-70	WILLIAMSON, John C.	1987-91, 1994-96
MESSINGER, Max A.	1980-88	WODE, Ed	1966-67
MILLER, Charles J.	1979-80	WOOD, E. J.	1976-77
MISER, Robert C.	1980-82	WOODRING, Kenneth G.	1987-96
MORRISON, David T.	1980-83	WOODWARD, G. Donald	1990
MULLEN, Jay W.	1990-93	YANIK, John F., Jr.	1983-88
NICEWONDER, K. Donald	1992-96	YOUNG, Sidney R., III	1989-96
NUTTER, F. B., Sr.	1966-77, 1978-96		
PAUL, John	1973-74		
PHILLIPS, Harry L.	1966-67		

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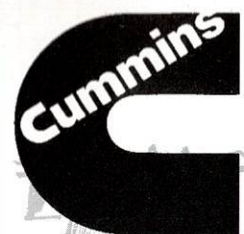
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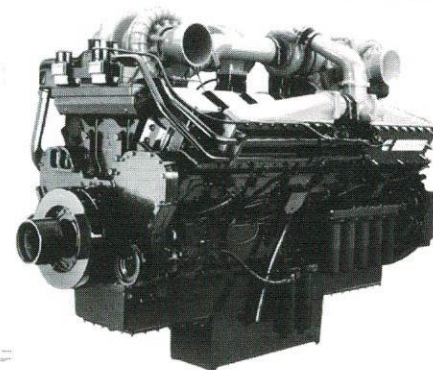
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A Century of Experience



Staff and families - Left to right are Carol Greene, Pam Damron, Ben Greene, Angela Damron, Benjie Greene, Rusty Greene, Keith Damron, Debbie Miller, Dan Miller, K. O. Damron, Mary Ann Steele, Bob Steele and Patty Bruce.

Over the past thirty years, the Association has had the benefit of many able staff members. Starting in 1966, when Executive Director Dick Vande Linde doubled the staff by hiring Patty Bruce, some two dozen individuals have worked full-time at WVMRA offices.

Dick and Patty comprised the original work force, which eventually grew to 13. Like the rest of the coal industry, the staff contracted and streamlined itself during the late '70's and early '80's.

The present staff of five has put in a lot of years together, with only one change in the lineup since 1984.

Patty Bruce must head any list of WVMRA employees. Patty helped open the Association doors at the Kanawha Valley Building in March of 1966. Since then, she has helped the organization through three location changes, while working with three executive officers, 29 board chairmen and countless staff and board members. She started as secretary, was promoted to office manager in 1975 and became assistant to the president a year later.

Through it all, she has served as the good right arm for hundreds of Association members, past and present, overseeing preparations for all of the traditional annual functions, as well as dozens of special meetings, and seminars.

Second in seniority is Mary Ann Steele who represented the first staff expansion back in 1971. Mary Ann became the Association bookkeeper 25 years ago and was elevated to office manager in 1976. In addition to her everyday duties, Mary Ann has teamed with Patty for two and a half decades to give WVMRA an unsurpassed expertise on the planning and execution of meetings.

Ben Greene, the Association's third permanent president, came to WVMRA August 1, 1977, just two days before President Jimmy Carter signed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. That was a timely transition. Ben came from the Department of Natural Resources, at that time the State regulatory agency for the industry.

He was in on the ground floor of DNR's reclamation program and, at the time, was the first and only chief of reclamation for the State. His knowledge of surface mining and reclamation law and technology was to prove invaluable in the long and tedious transition period as West Virginia struggled to regain regulatory primacy and adapt to the complicated process of federal regulation.

Vice President K. O. Damron is the latest addition to the staff, taking over for long-time VP Bill Raney in 1992. K. O. was a Board member at the time of his appointment and is also a former State legislator and coal industry executive.

Dan Miller, the editor of all Association publications, also came in 1977. He took over **Green Lands**, started the **West Virginia Coal Bell**, and also handles advertising, news releases, and special publishing projects.

At the end of 1996, these five individuals will have contributed an even 100 years of service to WVMRA, giving the Association a wealth of experience unparalleled in the industry.



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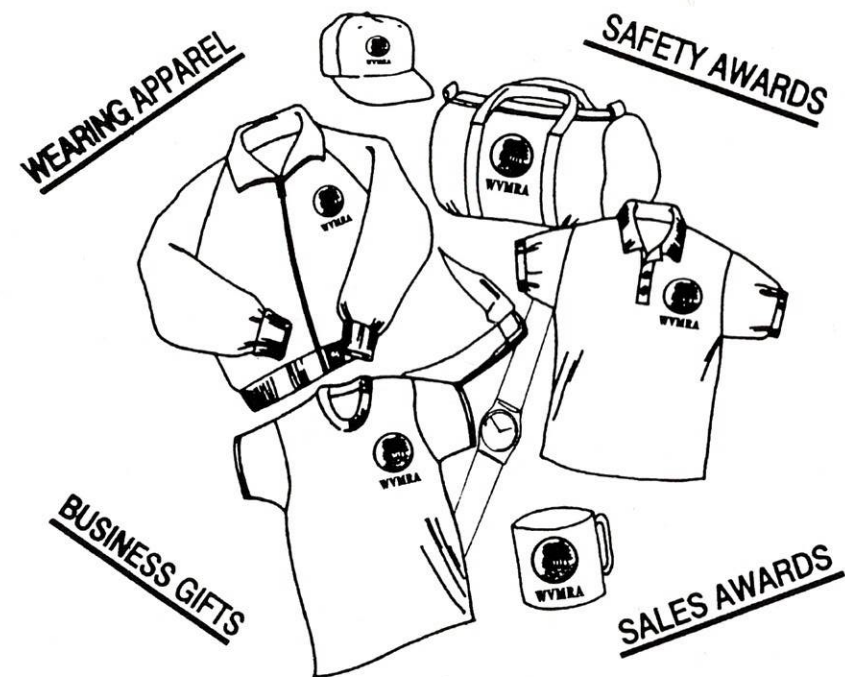


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Member FDIC

WVMRA Members — The first Decade

1966

GENERAL

Anderson & Anderson Contractors, Inc.
Bell Mining Co.
Buffalo Coal Co.
Bunch Construction, Inc.
Ford Coal Co.
Grafton Coal Co.
Kingwood Coal Co.
LaRosa Fuel Co., Inc.
Perry and Hylton, Inc.
Pittston Coal Group
Vecellio & Grogan, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Appalachian Tire Products, Inc.
B & M Oil Co.
Cecil I. Walker Machinery Co.
Cummins Cumberland, Inc.
Logan Corp./Kanaha Steel & Equipment Co.
Mary Ruth Corp.
Rish Equipment Co.

1967

GENERAL

Hobet Mining, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Amherst Industries, Inc.
Austin Powder Co.
Beckwith Machinery Co.
Carter Machinery Co., Inc.
Fairchild International
Pocahontas Land Corp.
WV Soil/Water Conserv. Dist. Supv.

1968

ASSOCIATE

Western Branch Diesel, Inc.

1969

GENERAL

BethEnergy Mines, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Flat Top Insurance Agency
Ohio Seed Co.

1970

GENERAL

Coal Power Corp.
Peerless Enterprises, Inc.

1971

GENERAL

Bluestone Coal Corp.
Chafin Branch Coal Co.

1972

ASSOCIATE

Acordia of West Virginia
Cotiga Development Co.
Crown Hill Equipment, Inc.
Logan & Kanawha Coal Co., Inc.

1973

GENERAL

Arch of West Virginia, Inc.

1974

GENERAL

Dal-Tex Coal Corp.
New Allegheny, Inc.
Rostosky Mining
Starvaggi Industries, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Bank of Raleigh

1975

GENERAL

Anker Energy Corp.
C & W Coal Co.

ASSOCIATE

Driltech, Inc.
Penn Line Service, Inc.
Petroleum Products, Inc.
West Virginia Coals, Inc.
Worldwide Equipment, Inc.

1966-1975

The Fight For Survival

West Virginia and coal are nearly synonymous in the nation's consciousness. The surface mining industry has been an important part of the state's coal heritage. But this key segment of the industry nearly disappeared 30 years ago. It was only through the foresight, determination and perseverance of a handful of operators and suppliers that the industry survived.

The present day West Virginia Mining & Reclamation Association is a tribute to that able group of coal pioneers. Now, as the Association celebrates its 30th birthday, it is fitting and appropriate to look back over the three decades of progress and growth compiled by these men and their successors.

West Virginia has always been at the forefront of the American coal industry. The State passed the nation's first surface mining law in 1939, yet achieved record production levels in the 1940's, supplying much of the energy for the American war effort and the 1950's industrial boom that followed.

In the 1960's, West Virginia became the focal point of the controversy over surface coal mining. National priorities had evolved from the post war focus on production to a more conservationist emphasis on environmental protection.

The debate raged over the issue of whether surface mining was compatible with environmental protection. It was literally a "do or die" period for West Virginia's surface coal mining industry.

WVMRA has its roots in two regional organizations, the Southern West Virginia Surface Mining Institute and the North Central West Virginia Surface Mining Association. These two groups, with similar concerns and objectives, joined forces in the spring of 1966 to form the West Virginia Surface Mine Institute, with a small office in downtown Charleston.

O.V. "Dick" VandeLinde was named to serve as Executive Director and he completed the original staff by hiring Patty Bruce. By the time of the first general meeting in July, membership had grown to 46 companies.

The original Board of Directors was a virtual roll call of West Virginia's independent coal leaders. Leo Vecellio of Beckley was the first President. He was joined by Jim Wilkinson, Fil Nutter, Arch Sandy, Gil Frederick, Milford Jenkins, Sherwood Sparks, Jim LaRosa, Harry Phillips, Jack Turner, Jack Baldini, Roy Long, J. Wade Bell, Ike Lewis, and L.C. Basham.



WVMRA began as an outgrowth of the Southern West Virginia Surface Mining Institute and the North Central West Virginia Surface Mining Association. Many of the men pictured in this group of southern operators were instrumental in the founding of the West Virginia Surface Mine Institute in 1966.



O. V. "Dick" Vande Linde, the Association's Executive Director from its beginning in 1966 until 1973.

The economic impact of coal in West Virginia is reflected by the solid foundation of support from WVMRA's associate membership. Suppliers have always been a critical segment of the Association and they were there in the beginning in the persons of men like Frank Boggess, Orville Thomas and Ed Wode.

With this firm foundation, the Institute incorporated as the West Virginia Surface Mine Association and the membership quickly grew to include such stalwarts as Jack and Bill Anderson, Herb and Charlie Jones, Jim Compton, Lawson Hamilton, Buck Harless, Lawrence Streets, Tracy Hylton, Jim Justice, Carl Del Signore, Mike Kennedy, Winston Cline, Mac Smith, A. S. Cappelari, George Garland, Claud Wilcher, Paul Harold, Buster Scaggs, Bob Bunch, Earl Scholl, Mitch Sorbello, Buck Lyons, Vic Green and many others.

The Associate membership expanded proportionately, gaining the support of such leaders as Bernard Folio, Tom Horn, Jack Fairchild, Cecil Walker, Frank Vigneault, Kyle Bailey, Ed Surgeon, Chap Johnston, Jim Meadows, Doug Crickmer, Frank Dainese, Jim Poindexter and Walter Dial.

This group set about adapting to the newly enacted State reclamation law of 1967, the most stringent in America. But it was not enough for opponents of the industry. Protest marches and demonstrations and negative, anti-industry campaigns marked the late 60's and early 1970's.

One trait held in common by the pioneer members of the Association was a sense of responsibility to the communities in which they lived and worked. The major initial task of the Association was to convey the benefits of that policy to the

rest of the industry and to carry the message to an untrusting public. The existence of the industry depended upon that mission and the 30th anniversary celebration of WVMRA is a tribute to its success.

In 1967, the Association entered into a tripartite reclamation research agreement with the State Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service. The following year, the Reclamation Awards were initiated as a means of recognizing and rewarding the most outstanding reclamation success stories. This program was the first of its kind in the nation and later served as a model for today's national Excellence in Reclamation Awards program.

The move to impede surface coal production peaked in 1971 with the introduction in the Legislature of a bill to abolish the industry outright. That proposal was narrowly voted down, but legislative compromise led to another severe revision of the surface mining and reclamation law.

As part of the compromise, the Legislature passed a two-year, 22 county moratorium on surface mining, prohibiting any surface mining activity where no mining currently existed, including the counties of Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler, Pleasants, Wood, Jackson, Mason, Lincoln, Roane, Wirt, Ritchie, Doddridge, Calhoun, Monroe, Pocahontas, Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson.

The struggle to continue mining coal was perhaps epitomized in 1971 by the controversy over the Laurel Run permit in Preston County. Overcoming well organized public protests by professional opponents of surface mining, who claimed that the operation would result in "landslides, flooding the destruction of land for forestry purposes and all future uses," H.L. "Mike" Kennedy successfully mined and reclaimed his permit. Shortly after mining, it became apparent that no environmental damage had been done. Mike Kennedy later sold the land to a professor at West Virginia University, neatly debunking the myth that mine land could not be returned to productive use.

By now the scope and mission of the Association required an expanded staff and roomier headquarters. In 1971, Mary Ann Steele was hired as Bookkeeper, Ben Lusk joined the staff in a public relations capacity, and Dan Gerkin became the News Director. With membership at more than 200 companies, the office was moved to a building on Quarrier St.

The name was changed to the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association, reflecting a renewed and intensified emphasis on the reclamation phase of the mining process. **Green Lands** magazine was launched to serve as a permanent record of Association activities, and another means of reaching the public with the message of industry's accomplishments.



The first winners of the Reclamation Awards are pictured at the Association's Annual Meeting in 1968 at the Daniel Boone Hotel in Charleston. Left to right are Jack Baldini, Bill Anderson, Jack Anderson, Paul Gaskill, A. S. Cappelari, DNR Director T. R. Samsell, Leo Vecellio, Bernard Folio, Tracy Hylton and Fil Nutter.

Though the first legislative effort at abolition had failed, the fight was far from over.

A popular young politician named Jay Rockefeller had made abolition a part of his platform as he prepared to run for governor in the 1972 election.

In response to the continuing threat to its members' livelihood, the Association initiated an extensive public relations campaign, aimed at combating the one-sided anti-industry reporting that characterized coverage of the surface mining controversy.

WVSMRA established a speakers' bureau, which sent key members into schools, civic organizations and other local outlets to bring to light the efforts of responsible coal operators to protect and reclaim mined land. This project was aided by "The Greening of Augusta," an Association produced, documentary film on the importance of coal to West Virginia, and the success of reclamation efforts.

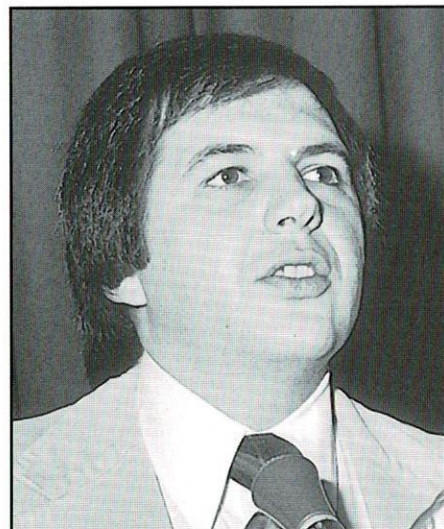
The Association sponsored press tours of active mine sites, a direct challenge to critics to find uncorrectable fault with surface mining technique. This process continues today, as industry opponents revel in litigation and paper fights, but are unable to challenge the visible successes of modern reclamation.

A ladies auxiliary was formed under the direction of Cindy Kunzelman and Julie Hartman, and became active in demonstrating local community support for the industry and its economic benefits. To underline its commitment to a new set of values, industry supported a doubling of the tax to finance the Special Reclamation Fund, a state established means of reclaiming orphaned mine lands.

By the end of 1972, the tide began to turn away from abolition of the industry. West Virginia led the nation in acres reclaimed, and Jay Rockefeller's abolition platform crashed under the weight of a lopsided loss in the governor's race. Association membership swelled to 235.

In 1973, as the Legislature extended the moratorium for another two years, Kentucky replaced West Virginia as the nation's leading coal producer.

The Association staff continued to evolve. Ben Lusk became the Executive Director and the Association turned its attention to technological advancement and further expansion, with Terry Iden as Membership Services Director.



Ben Lusk came to the Association in 1971 and was named Executive Director in 1973. His title was changed to President in 1974 and he served in that capacity until 1977.

During this period, Association members developed and perfected the most innovative mining techniques that the industry had yet seen. Steep slope haulback and mountaintop removal, both of which utilized the "controlled placement" theory of overburden handling, were major advances in the drive to maximize mineral recovery, and to facilitate effective reclamation.

Mountaintop removal was first conducted on a large scale in 1967 by Tracy Hylton, contracting for Cannelton Industries on Bullpush Mountain in eastern Kanawha County. The Perry & Hylton method might better have been called "flat top mining," for it didn't so much remove mountain tops as it did smooth them out.

Excess overburden was transported to highly engineered valley fills. As the mountaintop was resculptured, all highwalls were eliminated, outcrops remained undisturbed and drainage was relatively easy to control. Mineral recovery was virtually 100% and the gently rolling plateau of the reclaimed site created potential post mining land uses which would not otherwise have been possible.

Jim Compton of Grafton Coal Co. perfected the innovative "block cut" method of mining in northern West Virginia.

In the mountainous southern counties of the state, Fil Nutter and Hobet Mining & Construction Co. revolutionized steep slope mining with the development of the haulback method, which involved moving overburden laterally along the bench and backfilling against the highwall behind the actual mining operation.

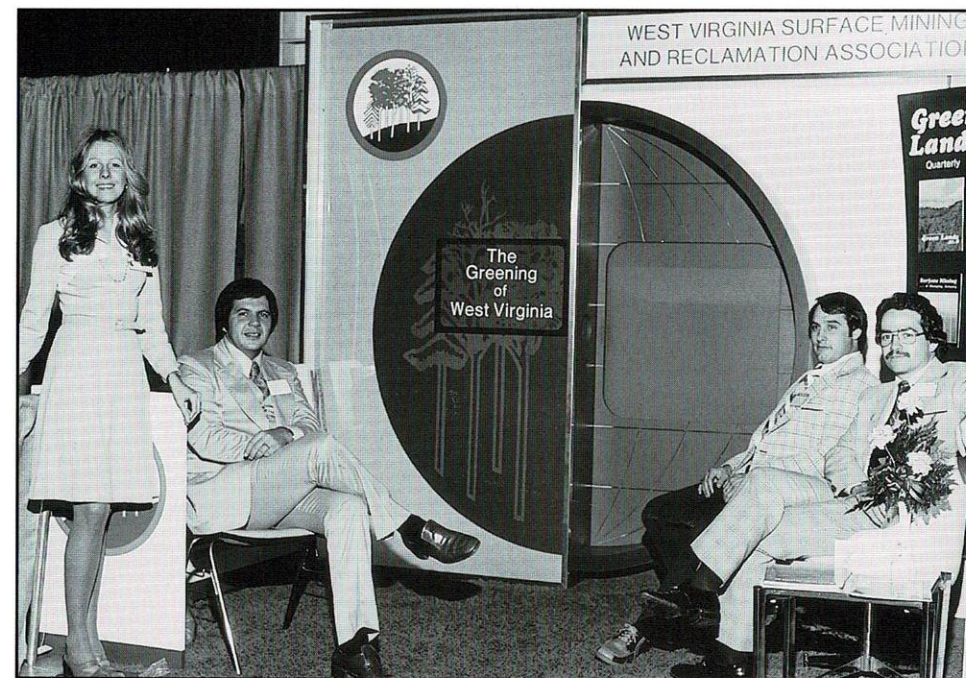
Material from each new cut was placed in the pit which had just been mined. This practice eventually resulted in complete highwall elimination on all steep slope contour mines. After the area was compacted and seeded, a grassy slope extended from the haul road to the undisturbed tree line above the operation. This technique reduced disturbed acreage (and, therefore, the bond), facilitated water control and allowed for much quicker and more effective reclamation.

In the northern panhandle, Mike Starvaggi and Don Donell of Starvaggi Industries were pioneering the art of post mining land use.

These and other innovations put West Virginia at the forefront of the nation's mining and reclamation industries, and WVSMRA soon found a way to share the wealth of information and expertise that it had developed. In 1974, the Association initiated the West Virginia Mining Symposium, which continues today as the "most informative two days in the mining industry." Hundreds of mine supervisors, technicians and consultants gathered in Charleston to learn and exchange technology to improve and streamline every facet of the mining and reclamation processes.



On the job with Pete Pitsenbarger (l) and Ben Greene, the two top officials with DNR's Division of Reclamation. Ben later became President of the Association and Pete took over the post of Reclamation Chief.



Part of the Association's public relations effort in the early 1970's was "manning the booth" at trade shows. Left to right are Cindy Jennings, Ben Lusk, John Sturm and Dan Gerkin.

That same year, a Technical Services Division was established, headed by new staff member John Sturm. Soon after, the Association received a federal grant for an experimental longwall mining project, and Bill Piper was hired as Project Engineer.

Also in 1974, WVMRA moved to its present headquarters, just a block from the State Capitol Complex on Charleston's Kanawha Boulevard and Cindy Jennings joined the staff as News and Information director. In a simultaneous organizational move, Ben Lusk became President of the organization, with Dan Gerkin as Vice President. Since then the Board of Directors has been headed by a Chairman.

As the year ended, President Gerald R. Ford vetoed the first congressional effort at a national mine reclamation law, and the Association opened a water testing facility in Beckley, under the direction of Gary Cooper.

Early in 1975, the federal "Project Independence" called for 1.2 to 1.8 billion tons of U.S. coal production by 1985, and President Ford, in his State of the Union message, encouraged the increased use of coal to combat the country's dependence on foreign oil.

The Association published a booklet entitled "Procedure to Obtain a Surface Mining Permit in West Virginia," and a WVU economist termed the state's reclamation law, "the toughest in the nation."

President Ford again vetoed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, as passed by Congress. In June, as Congress failed to override the President's veto, WVSMRA went on record as favoring legislation which would "establish minimum guidelines for state enforcement in order to bring reclamation standards of surrounding states up to those of West Virginia."

Meanwhile, the benefits of responsible mining and reclamation were vividly demonstrated when Pocahontas Land Corp., Perry & Hylton, Inc., and Cannelton Industries turned over 53 reclaimed acres on Toms Mountain to the McDowell County school system for construction of a consolidated high school.

Late in the year, "The Jim Wilkinson Memorial Tripartite Research and Development Project" was launched to honor the late Association President. A cooperative effort of the WVSMRA, the State Department of Natural Resources and the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Project was established to help develop effective woodland and wildlife reclamation techniques.

The Association closed the book on its first ten years, firmly established as one of the leading state trade organizations in the nation and with the satisfaction of having played a major role in the salvation of the industry.

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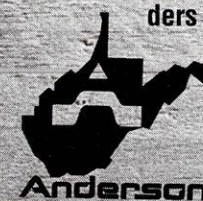
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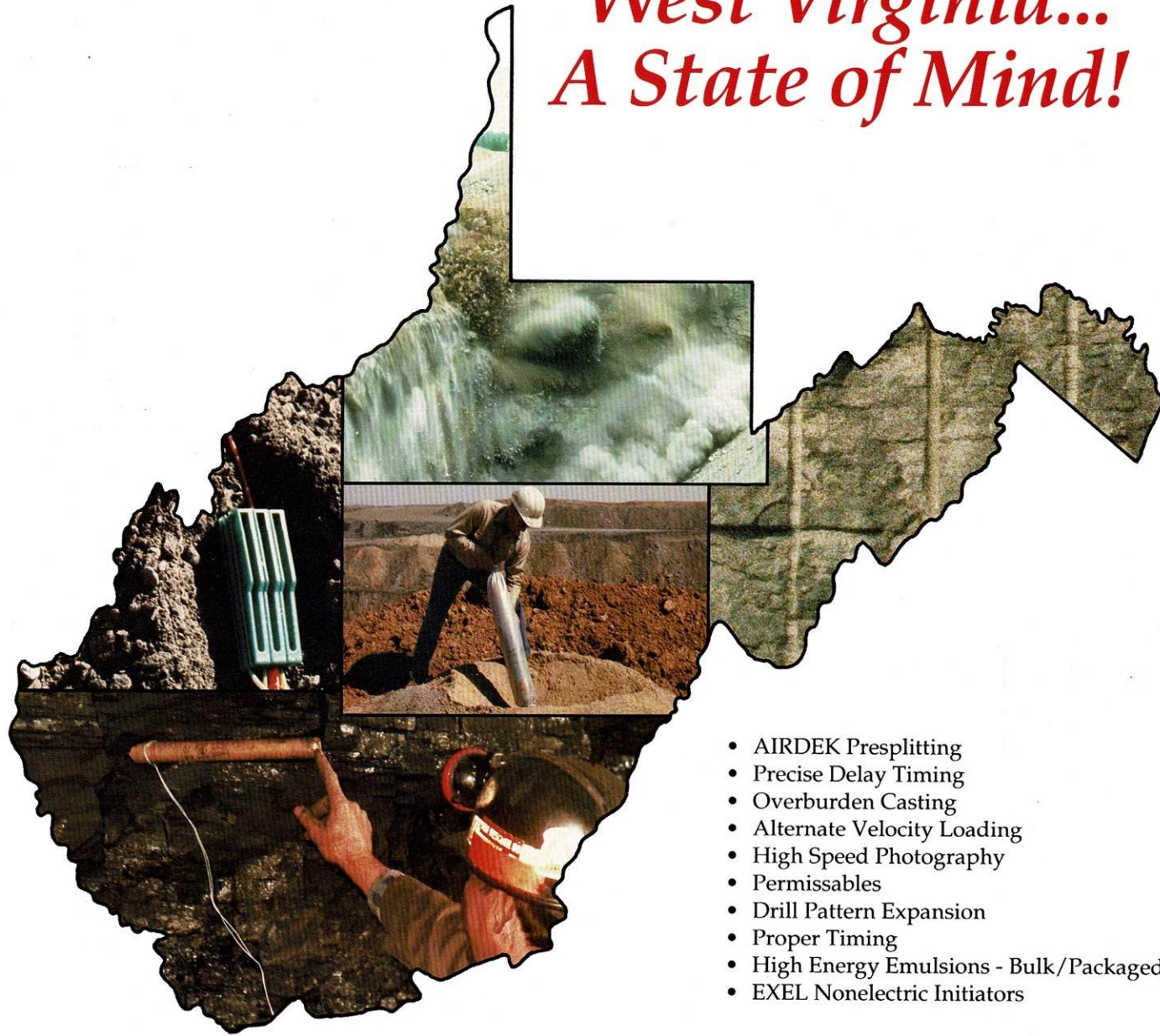
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WVMRA Members — The Second Decade

1976

GENERAL

Land Use Corp.

ASSOCIATE

Delta Co.

ICI Explosives USA

1977

ASSOCIATE

Brackenrich & Associates, Inc.

Nell Jean Enterprises, Inc.

1978

GENERAL

Brooks Run Coal Co.

Rayle Coal Co.

ASSOCIATE

Esmer & Associates, Inc.

Ingersoll-Rand Co.

Industrial Electric Corp.

John T. Boyd Co.

Skelly and Loy, Inc.

Songer Insurance Agency, Inc.

Vibra-Tech Engineers, Inc.

1979

ASSOCIATE

Atlas Powder Co.

General Truck Sales Corp.

ICI Explosives USA

Sturm Environmental Services, Inc.

Euclid-Hitachi Heavy Equipment, Inc.

1980

GENERAL

Coaltrain Corp.

Patriot Mining Co., Inc.

Stanley Industries, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Bell Farms Reclamation Services

DYNO NOBEL, INC.

H. C. Nutting Co.

Mt. State Bit Service, Inc.

1981

GENERAL

Elk Run Coal Co., Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Employers Service Corp.

Engineering Services, Inc.

GEO Consultants, Inc.

1982

ASSOCIATE

Anderson of West Virginia

Jackson & Kelly

Sii Smith International

1983

ASSOCIATE

Berwind Land Co.

Bridgeport Trucking Co.

Columbia Coal Gasification Corp.

First Union National Bank

Massie Reclamation, Inc.

1984

GENERAL

Carbon Fuel Co.

Eastern Associated Coal Corp.

Juliana Mining Co., Inc.

K & P Mining, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Gilbert Distributing Co.

Kanawha River Terminals

Robinson & McElwee

Virginia Welding Supply Co.

1985

GENERAL

High Power Energy

ASSOCIATE

Dingess-Rum Coal Co., Inc.

Kimberly Industries, Inc.

Tioga Lumber Co.

1976-1985

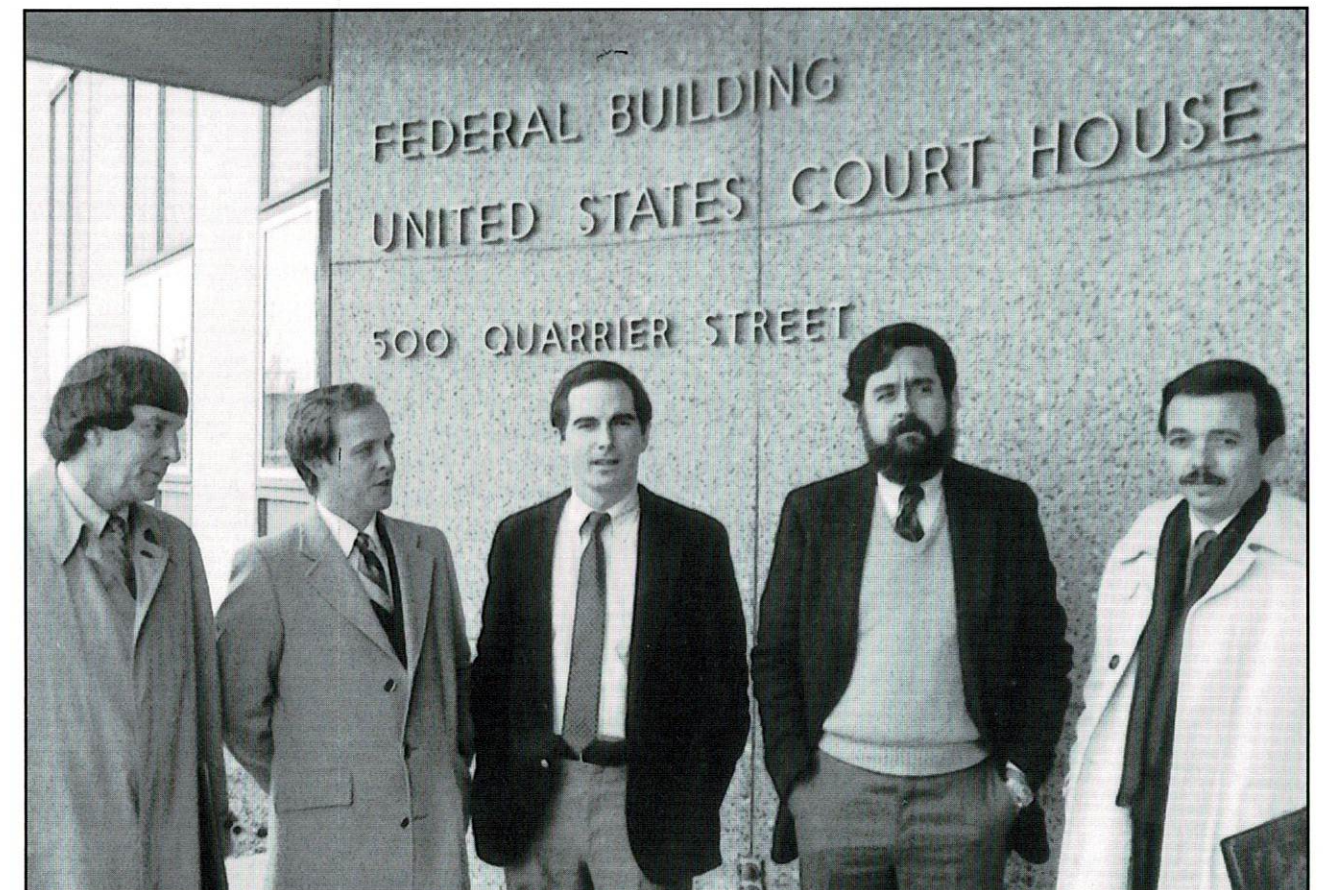
Adapting to the New Order

The Association marked the end of an era when founding member Fil Nutter retired from active service on the Board of Directors and became the first individual to be named an honorary Board member.

In 1976, the abolitionists in the State Legislature tried again to outlaw the industry, but by this time the movement had lost its momentum. But a larger, more far reaching challenge loomed on the horizon. By 1977, passage of a federal law to regulate mining reclamation became inevitable.

West Virginians were already on record as favoring federal legislation, in principle, on the basis that national standards as stringent as West Virginia's would help the state coal industry's position in the marketplace.

WVSMRA was the only coal organization to publicly support the bill. The contributions of the Association to the legislation were duly recognized when President Jimmy Carter signed the bill into law. The signing took place in the White House Rose Garden and WVSMRA President Ben Lusk and Board member Jim Compton were the only state trade representatives invited to the ceremony.



The passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 set off an unprecedented flurry of litigation. Gathered at the federal courthouse in Charleston for an early round are Association President Ben Greene, WVCA President Eddie Wiles, Attorneys Greg Gorrell and Ricklin Brown and Association Vice President Bill Raney.



In the midst of the battle to reestablish state regulatory primacy, Jim White (r) shows off his Pioneer Fuel operation to West Virginia Governor Jay Rockefeller, a former surface mining opponent.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 ushered in a new era for the industry, and for the Association. Dan Gerkin left to head the Contractors Association of West Virginia. Soon after, Ben Lusk resigned to devote his attention to establishing a national surface mining organization.

They were replaced by two familiar figures from state government. Ben Greene, the original Chief of Reclamation for the Department of Natural Resources, became WVSMRA's third President. Bill Raney, his long-time associate at DNR, was named Vice President. These were to become key appointments during the turbulent years of implementing federal legislation. That same year, Dan Miller joined the staff as Editor of Publications.

While positive in theory, implementation of the national law proved to be cumbersome. The bill created the Office of Surface Mining, under the Department of the Interior, as the federal regulatory agency. As it began the tedious process of developing regulations to implement the new law, OSM did not enjoy the confidence of either industry or state government.

In states which lacked strict regulation, industry feared the new federal standards. In states like West Virginia, where a good program was already in place, there was serious concern as to what positive contribution federal authorities could offer. Interests of eastern and western mining were at odds, as were old mining with new and surface with underground.

Walt Heine, first in a long line of OSM Directors, attempted to allay these suspicions. Heine wrote in an early edition of his agency's newsletter that the activities of his office would "always be carried out in a spirit of cooperation." Heine continued, "I believe that many coal operators will change their attitude after they have had experience with the regulations."

Unfortunately, the Director was overly optimistic. Within months of passage, the lawsuits began to fly. OSM's initial approach was to break each state down, and rebuild it according to the wisdom of federal authority. The Association won a major court battle in the spring of 1978, which struck down OSM's attempt to force pre-existing structures to conform with the agency's design criteria, as well as its performance standards.

This began a long, litigious battle of "preproposed regulations," "proposed interim regulations," "interim regulations," "proposed final regulations,"



In 1979, the Board was able to burn the mortgage on 1624 Kanawha Boulevard West, in Charleston, the Association's headquarters since 1974.

etc., with industry groups and state governments fighting every step of the way to keep OSM from fixing what wasn't broken.

The bottom line was that the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources was required to come up with a federally approved regulatory program before the State could resume regulatory primacy. West Virginia could rely only upon the courts for relief from this dictatorial process.

As an example, in late July of 1978, Association President Ben Greene received from OSM two sets of proposed regulations totaling 436 pages, and was asked to offer his comments at an August 8 hearing.

For the year, West Virginia coal production fell to 84.7 million tons, the lowest since 1922.

In March of 1979, OSM finally released its "final regulations," a 561 page document which set off a new round of litigation. In Charleston, the West Virginia Legislature was attempting to keep pace with ever changing federal requirements, in an effort to regain primacy for the Department of Natural Resources. It was an era of great cooperation between industry and state government to

minimize OSM's disruption of the finest regulatory program in the country.

A full circle was completed in August of 1979, when West Virginia Governor Jay Rockefeller spoke to the Association's Annual Meeting. Far removed from the 1972 candidate who was soundly beaten while running on a promise to abolish surface mining, the Governor came to The Greenbrier as Chairman of the President's Commission on Coal, and the author of "The Rockefeller Amendment." (The Rockefeller Amendment, legitimizing the principle of allowing states to set design criteria to meet federal performance standards, was enacted more than a year later.)

WVSMRA continued to march forward. In 1979, it inaugurated **Green Pages**, the Membership Services Directory. Later that year, West Virginia became the first eastern mining state to establish regulatory primacy under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

With the abolition issue relegated to the scrapbooks, and state regulatory primacy in hand, the Association faced new challenges. At the outset of the 1980's, it was clear that



A visit to the nation's capitol and West Virginia's congressional delegation was an Association tradition in the 1980's. Shown with former U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph are (l-r) Bill Raney, Bill Ritchie, Rogers Stevens, Bill Forbes, Dave Porreca, Don Donell, Frank Vigneault, Dwight Keating, Jim White, Lawrence Streets, Ben Greene, Jim Compton, Bill Butler and Andy Teeter.

the environmental movement was here to stay, and that it would be necessary for modern industry to keep innovating and adapting, and trying to improve. By this time, surface mining had survived not only the abolition battle, but also the implementation of 18 major pieces of legislation enacted on the federal level over the previous decade.

Industrial growth always meets resistance and the opposition of the 80's was more educated, wiser in the ways of government and litigation, and more aggressive in its pursuit of hamstringing industrial development and progress.

Though many battles had been won, financial ruin from overregulation and endless litigation remained a threat. It was imperative that WVSMRA keep developing new tools for self improvement and for keeping its cause before the public eye.

The Association met the challenges of the new decade head on. In 1980, it helped establish the "Acid Mine Drainage Task Force," a joint effort among industry, academics and government to combat the environmental problems associated with AMD. In 1981, it began publishing the **West Virginia Coal Bell**, a new periodical aimed at the non-member segment of the industry.

In 1983, the "Mountaineer Guardian" safety program was established to recognize fatality free coal production. In 1984, the Reclamation Awards were expanded to recognize the most outstanding reclamation effort, as well as the best completed projects under the industry financed Abandoned Mine Lands program.

In 1985, the Association altered its name once again, deleting the word "surface." This history of the organization's name changes parallels its evolving concerns.

Founded as the "West Virginia Surface Mine Institute," it became the "West Virginia Surface Mine Association," as more suppliers or associate members became involved. Then the "West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association" emphasized the escalating importance of reclamation. And finally, the "West Virginia Mining & Reclamation Association" reflects the growing relationship and interdependence of surface and underground mining.

With membership well established at over 300 companies, WVMRA closed its second decade as the largest state coal association in America. Attendance at the Annual Meeting and the West Virginia Mining Symposium routinely swelled to more than 500.

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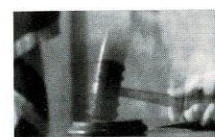
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LeTourneau loaders offer the most complete range of efficient and productive buckets precisely sized for any material, with solid-state controls providing faster cycle times and greater productivity than any comparably-sized loader.

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And when it comes to state-of-the-art technology, LeTourneau continues to lead the pack. The generators, traction motors and solid-state electronic controls are the most advanced in the industry, with interchangeable modular components for easy service and maintenance access.

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	L-1000	L-1100	L-1400
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Standard	51,000 lbs. (23,133 kgs.)	66,000 lbs. (29,937 kgs.)	84,000 lbs. (38,102 kgs.)
High Lift	48,000 lbs. (21,773 kgs.)	60,000 lbs. (27,216 kgs.)	78,000 lbs. (35,381 kgs.)
SAE-Rated Bucket Capacity			
Standard	17 yd ³ (13.00 m ³)	22 yd ³ (16.82 m ³)	28 yd ³ (21.4 m ³)
High Lift	16 yd ³ (12.00 m ³)	20 yd ³ (15.29 m ³)	26 yd ³ (19.9 m ³)
Dump Heights			
Standard	18'-5" (5.61 m)	18'-10" (5.74 m)	21'-6" (6.55 m)
High Lift	19'-10" (6.04 m)	20'-0" (6.10 m)	23'-6" (7.16 m)

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Terry Eagle Coal Co.

ASSOCIATE

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Baker Hughes Mining Tools, Inc.
Edwards-Warren Tire Co.
Glottelty Enterprises
Gress Equipment Co.
Guttman Oil Co.
Heavy Machines, Inc.
KaJon Materials, Inc.
Lee Sartin Trucking Co., Inc.
Pardee Resources Group
Phillips Machine Service, Inc.
Rogers Petroleum Service, Inc.
Rudd Equipment Co.
United National Bank

1987

GENERAL

James Coal Co.
Pen Coal Corp.
United Coals, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Beitzel Corp.
Cline Ford Sales, Inc.
Ensign Bickford Co.
Green Mountain Co.
Keystone Services Industries, Inc.
Mack Trucks, Inc.
Pioneer Construction
Smith, Heenan & Althen
Spilman, Thomas and Battle
Turner & Co., P.A.

1988

GENERAL

Daniels Branch Coal Co., Inc.
Hampden Coal Co., Inc.
Lo-Ming Coal Corp.
Maxim Management Co.

Mepco, Inc.

Mingo Logan Coal Co.

Premium Energy, Inc.

Vencill Corp.

White Flame Energy, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Akers Supply, Inc.
American Hydraulics
Big Sandy Terminal, Inc.
Bowles Rice McDavid Graff & Love
Brocoal, Inc.
D & S Machine & Hydraulics
Ferrell Excavating Co., Inc.
Forke Brothers, The
Auctioneers, Inc.
Hotsy Equipment Co.
Justice Supply Co.
Keen Transport, Inc./Hubert
Jones, Inc.
LeTourneau Co.
Mid-Valley Supply Co.
National Ammonia Co.
PNC Bank, N.A.
Rag Pickers, Inc.
Republic Industries
Safety Caution Equipment Co.
Varel Manufacturing Co.

1989

GENERAL

Heartland Coal Co.
Omar Mining Co.

ASSOCIATE

Analabs, Inc.
Benson Truck Bodies, Inc.
EIMCO Coal Machinery Inc.
GAI Consultants, Inc.
Gilbert Coal
Testing/Foxfire Consultants
Herman & Cormany, CPA's, A.C.
Kanawha Stone Co.
Kenworth Truck Co.
RMI, Ltd.
State Equipment, Inc.

1990

GENERAL

Ashland Coal, Inc.
Catenary Coal Co.
Eaglehawk Carbon, Inc.
Greenbrier Coal Co.
Laurel Creek Co., Inc.
Wind River Resources Corp.

ASSOCIATE

Gibson-IRECO, Inc.
Hitachi Construction
Machinery Corp.
Lens Creek Limited Partnership
Linville's Coal Preparation
Plant, Inc.
Mellon Bank, N.A.
PM Enterprises, Inc.

1991

GENERAL

Pioneer Fuel Corp.

ASSOCIATE

Black Diamond Construction, Inc.
Chesapeake Mining Co.
Eagle Carbon, Inc.
Greenbrier Limestone Corp.
Guyan Machinery Co.
Marshall Miller & Associates
Mountain Valley Explosives
Nelson Brothers, Inc.
P and A Engineers and Consultants
Reliance Surety Co.
Savage Industries, Inc.
Shuman Annand & Poe
Summit Engineering, Inc.
TerraSod, Inc.
Triad Engineering, Inc.
Van-American Insurance Co.
Waters, Warner & Harris
Western Pocahontas
Properties, Ltd.
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1992

GENERAL

Cheyenne Sales Co., Inc.
Costain Coal Inc.
Peerless Eagle Coal Co.
Relgis, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Almes & Associates, Inc.
Byron Construction Co., Inc.
Central Testing, Inc.
Energy Transport Services, Inc.
Foster Supply Inc.
G. A. Covey Engineering
Killam Associates, DLA Division
L & S Chevrolet-Olds, Inc.
Mannesman-Demag Construction
Pounding Mill Quarry Corp.
REIC Laboratory
Stowers & Sons Trucking, Inc.
Vance International, Inc.

1993

GENERAL

C.J. Coal Corp.
Mountaineer Mining Management
Old Dominion Mining, Inc.
Philippi Development, Inc.
Pritchard Mining Co., Inc.
The Ridge Land Co.

ASSOCIATE

Acord Surveying, Inc.
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American Electric Power
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TERRADON Corp.
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Land Surveyors
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1995

GENERAL

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Golden Oaks, Inc.
Pups Creek Coals, Inc.

ASSOCIATE

Criste Engineering &
Reclamation Services
Crystal Resources, Inc.
D & R Clearing
Eaton Corp.
Johnson & Higgins of
Pennsylvania, Inc.
PACCAR Financial Corp.
Rockwell International
Steptoe & Johnson
Tensor Environmental Systems, Inc.
Titan Rentals, Inc.

1996

GENERAL

Colby Coal Co.
DRM Coal Processing, Inc.
Drummond Co., Inc.
Fola Coal Co., Inc.
Princess Beverly Coal Co.

ASSOCIATE

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Governor Gaston Caperton proclaims "Jim Compton Day" in West Virginia, in honor of the coal pioneer's countless achievements in industry as well as philanthropic endeavors.



In 1986, the Association celebrated its 20th anniversary, a milestone many opponents doubted it would ever reach.

1986-1995

Building a Stronger Industry

The last ten years have been marked by the continued growth of the Association and its programs, by the continuing and increasing contributions of member companies to the community of West Virginia, and by the passing of the WVMRA torch to a new generation of leaders.

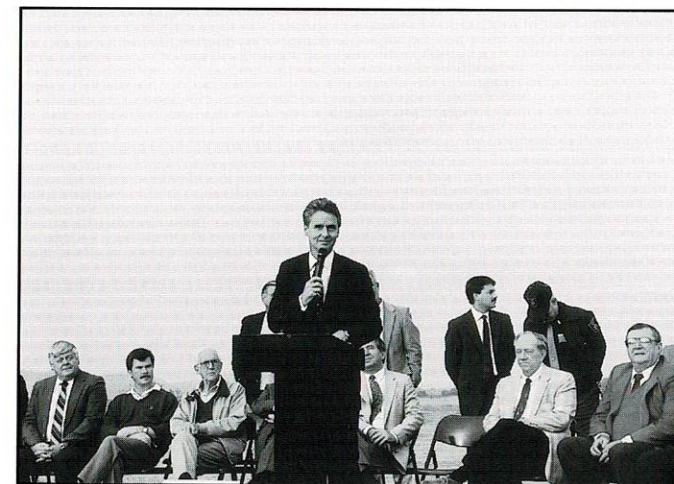
By 1989, West Virginia coal production had recovered to 153 million tons, the highest year end total since 1951. The Mountain State has now overtaken Kentucky to reclaim its former spot as the number two producing coal state in the nation.

In 1990, the 17th Symposium broke all attendance records with a crowd of over 700. That Symposium was also marked by the announcement of a Memorandum of Understanding between WVMRA and Ducks Unlimited to "promote the creation of wetland habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species on mining operations in West Virginia." It was the nation's first such arrangement between an industry group and a conservation organization. Three years later, WVMRA would sign a similar agreement with the National Wild Turkey Foundation.

Member companies have garnered countless honors. In 1991, Hobet Mining Inc. was named the winner of the Kenes C. Bowling National Mine Reclamation Award, presented by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission. In 1993, Mingo Logan Coal Co. became the first West Virginia coal company to win the OSM sponsored "Excellence in Mining" award. Buffalo Coal Co. has won the David C. Callaghan Award as the state's finest operation three times.

At the 1989 Annual Meeting, founding member Lawson W. Hamilton, Jr. officially retired from active participation in the Association. In his honor, his fellow members established the Lawson & Jeanne Hamilton Family Scholarship Fund, and Lawson became the second honorary member of the Board of Directors, joining fellow founder Fil Nutter.

A year later, C.E. "Jim" Compton was added to that select circle. He was joined in 1994 by the late Jim Justice and in 1995 by Association pioneer member Lawrence Streets.



In 1990, Governor Gaston Caperton addressed the crowd gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Logan regional airport, facilitated and built on a site mined and reclaimed by Geupel Construction.

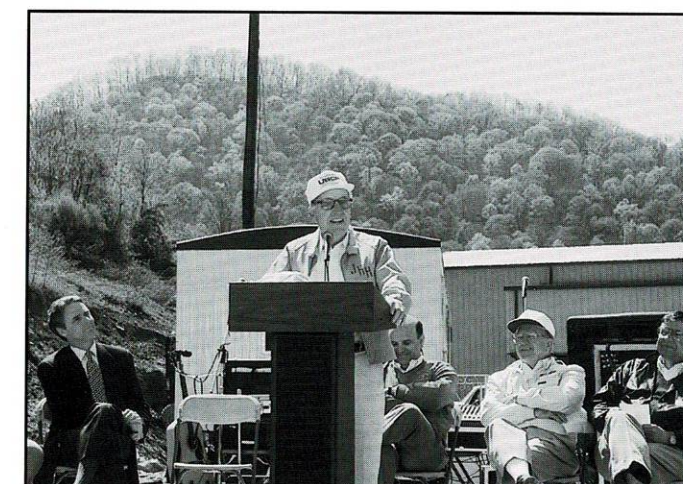
In 1989, several member companies, including Grafton Coal, C&W Coal, Stanley Industries, Black Diamond Energy, Island Creek Mining, Badger Coal, LaRosa Fuel and United Coals, came to the rescue of the Tygart River, by joining with State agencies to save the stream from damaging acid flows brought on by a summer long drought.

In 1990, State officials broke ground in Fayette County for West Virginia's new maximum security prison, on land donated by Cannelton Industries, with site preparation donated by Cannelton, Pen Mining and Addington Brothers. This ceremony was a further vindication of the formerly controversial mountaintop removal mining method, without which officials would have been breaking much steeper ground.

Also in 1990, C&W Coal, Stanley Industries, McCoy Brothers, Inc., Grafton Coal Co. and 92 Coal Corp. provided machinery and manpower for the site preparation of an addition to the Barbour County Vocational Tech Center, a savings to the facility of over \$100,000.

In Boone County, Peabody Coal Co., BethEnergy Mines and Island Creek Coal Co. donated men and machinery to deepen six miles of Pond Fork, creating a valuable trout stream in Boone County.

In Logan County, through the determination, expertise, and financial sacrifices of Geupel Construction Co., mining was wrapped up, reclamation was completed and an access road was built, leading to construction of the Logan County Airport.



Many WVMRA members are quite diverse when it comes to providing jobs for West Virginians. Shown here, WVMRA pioneer Buck Harless opens his new sawmill in eastern Kanawha County.

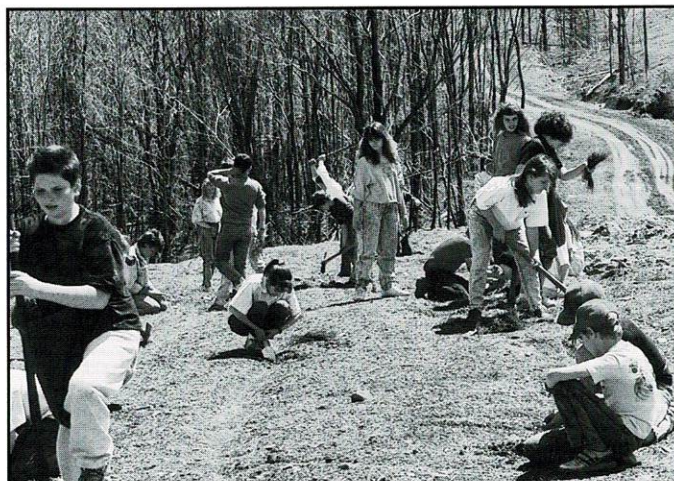
In Mercer County, Jack and Bill Anderson donated equipment, time and expertise in the construction of a state-of-the-art baseball facility for Concord College.

WVMRA members are continually involved in improvement projects all over the state and across its borders.

In Boone County, Hobet Mining, Inc. constructed special facilities to accommodate the hundreds of visitors to its reclamation site, recently judged best in the nation. In Tucker County, Don Cussins and his Buffalo Coal Co. staff annually devote time and resources to the YMCA's Youth In Government program. In Beckley, Jim Justice, Jr. oversees an industry sponsored basketball tournament that raises thousand of dollars annually for college scholarships.

In Fayette County, John Bryan facilitated the development of what may be a new statewide mine site trout raising industry. John Wellford in Charleston is building a major office park between the Capitol and the state's largest airport. John Faltis in Morgantown is leading the fight to restore the Cheat River to its former pristine state.

Lawrence Streets in Mt. Storm has watched Christmas trees grow from his reclaimed mine site to decorate the nation's Capitol during the holidays. Jim LaRosa in Bridgeport and Don Nicewonder in Virginia have applied their land restoration skills to the construction of world class golf courses.



In addition to performing the most outstanding reclamation work in the country, Association members have long supported environmental restoration projects. Here, Mineral county elementary students are planting trees on reclaimed land mined by New Allegheny, Inc.

Operators all over the state have contributed half a billion dollars to the Abandoned Mine Lands fund to restore mine lands from earlier generations. Coal companies and suppliers have made contributions too numerous to mention to schools, hospitals, parks, community infrastructure projects, service groups and other worthwhile projects.

It is a tribute to the generosity of industry people that these projects have received assistance on such a grand scale. It is perhaps a greater tribute to the pioneers of WVMRA that the industry is in a position to be able to make such contributions.

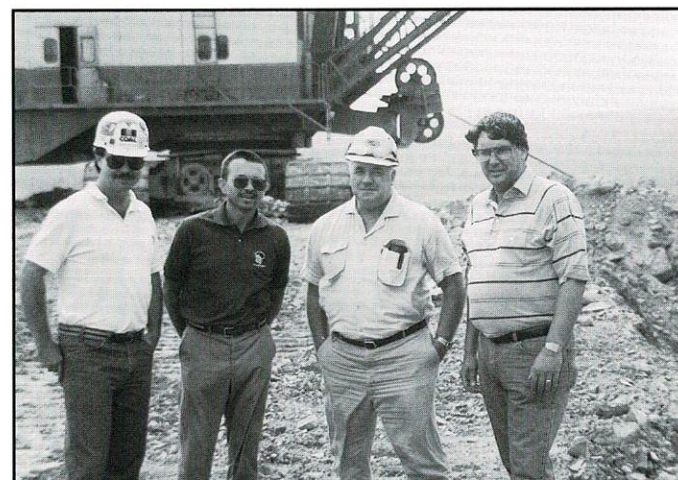
Though the battle for survival has been successfully waged for 30 years, the challenges continue. Despite 17 consecutive years of price decline, the Association's third decade has been marked by a steady recovery of previous production levels, proof positive that modern mining and positive environmental influence can go hand-in-hand and the establishment of a well earned reputation for community involvement and philanthropic commitment.

As time moves forward, there are the inevitable changes in our cast of characters. In 1992, long-time Vice President Bill Raney was named President of the West Virginia Coal Association and was replaced by former Board member K.O. Damron.

Sadly, our third decade has also seen the passing of many of the pioneer operators and suppliers who provided the foundation for a 30 year success story. Carl Del Signore passed away in 1984 and, more recently, such industry giants as Orville Thomas, Frank Vigneault, Jack Fairchild, Sr. Jim Justice, Sr. and Leo Vecellio, Sr.



Association Vice President K. O. Damron (far left) presents the Mountain State Coal Classic Trophy to Winfield High School. The industry sponsored event, which raises thousands of dollars annually for academic scholarships, has grown to a field of 24 teams.



Under the leadership of Don Cussins (second from right), Buffalo Coal Co. is a three time winner of the prestigious "David C. Callaghan Award," symbolic of the outstanding mining operation in the state. Here, Don hosts Hal Quinn of the National Mining Association, Bill Raney and Ben Greene.

But it was the spirit of these men and their contemporaries that made WVMRA succeed. And it is their spirit which provides the light for the future. The Association has been blessed with a rich tradition of service and accomplishment. As the torch is passed to a new generation, we must remember that in numbers, there has been strength; in effort, there has been achievement; and in service, there has been prosperity.

Literally thousands of people have contributed to the WVMRA success story. As we celebrate 30 years of proud tradition, hearty congratulations are in order for one and all.

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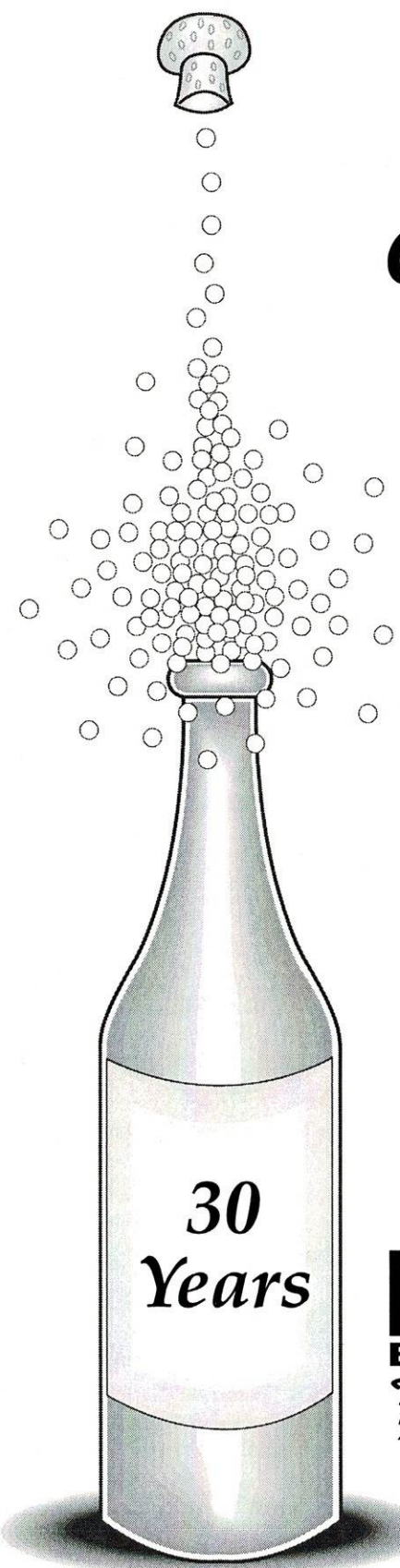
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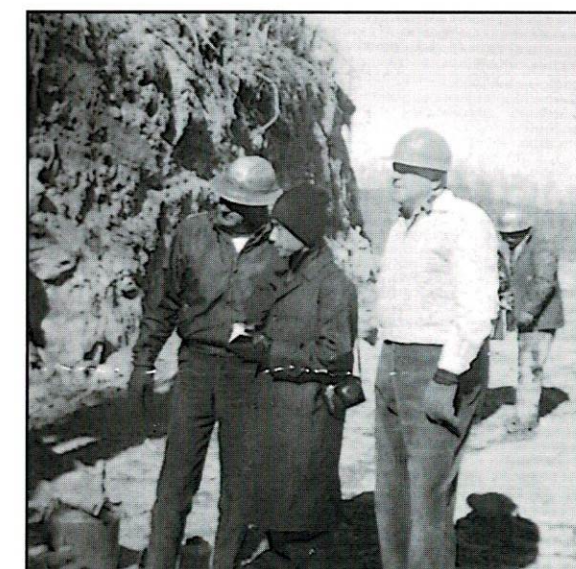
Association Scrapbook



1972 - Tracy Hylton threw an on-site open house bash in support of surface mining at his Corrine site.



The late Jim Wilkinson, in the field, in the 1960's.



Bill and Jack Anderson host a visitor from the East.

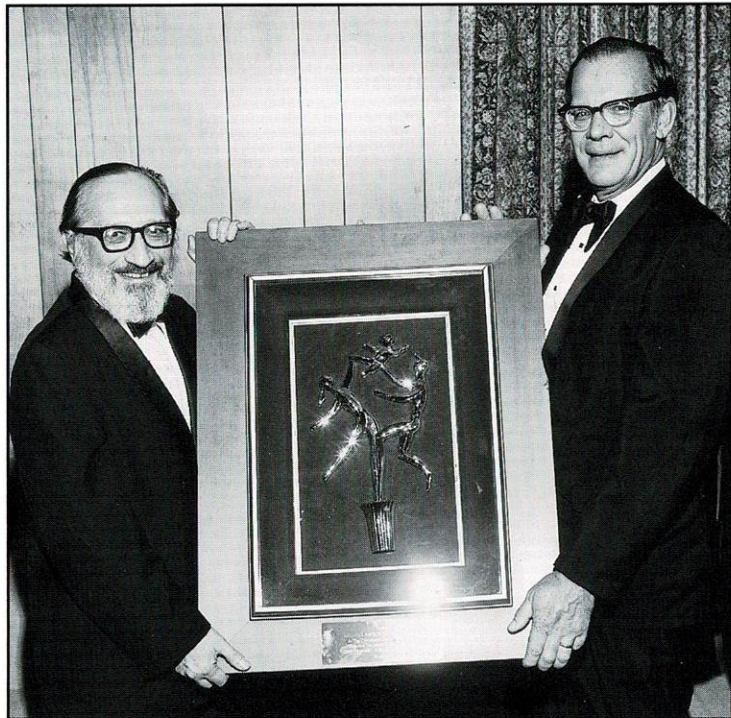
Association Scrapbook



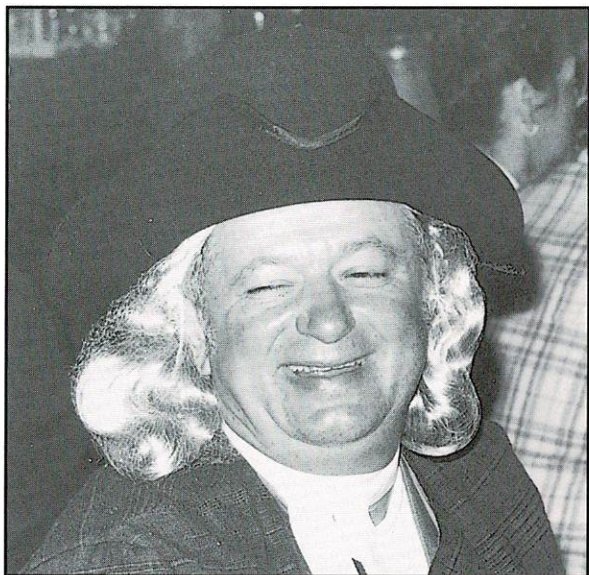
Mary Ann Steele and Patty Bruce, with 55 years of experience between them, at one of their early registration efforts.



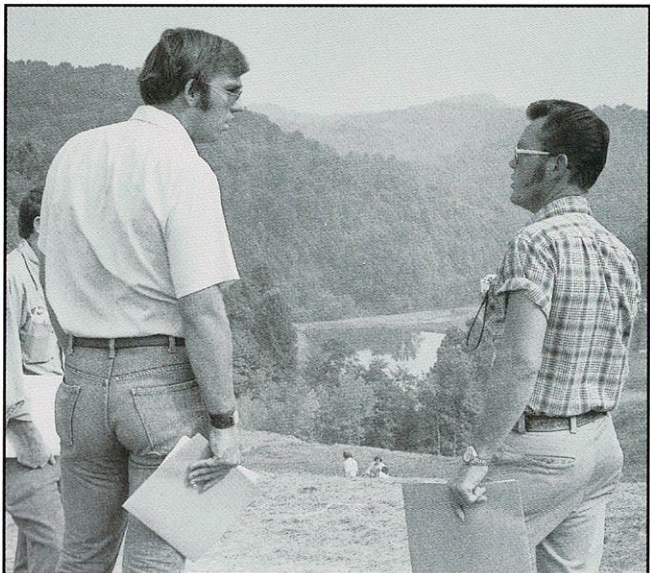
1975 - Jim Compton, the first West Virginia "Coal Man of the Year."



Lawson Hamilton (r), in 1975, became the first of many Association members to be honored with the "Spirit of Life" award from the City of Hope.



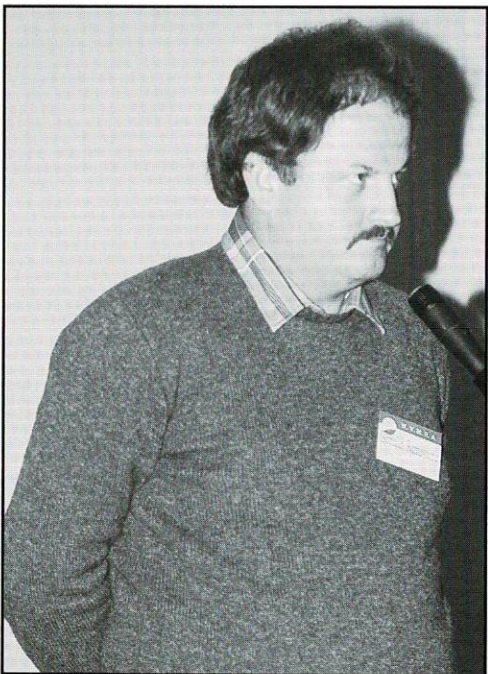
Secondo Dalporto as an Italian Ben Franklin at the Semi-Annual Meeting in 1976.



Ken Faerber and Ed Williams on tour in the early days.



In his darker haired days, John Bryan greets Virginia running buddy B. V. Cooper.

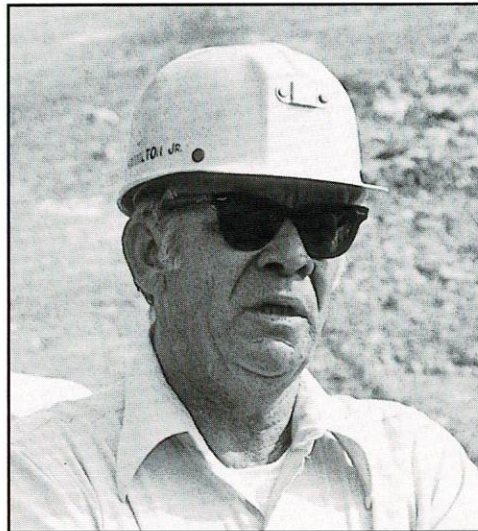


A youthful Gerald Ramsburg addresses the West Virginia Mining Symposium.

Association Scrapbook



Tour host Lawrence Streets



Tour host Lawson Hamilton



Tour host Buck Harless



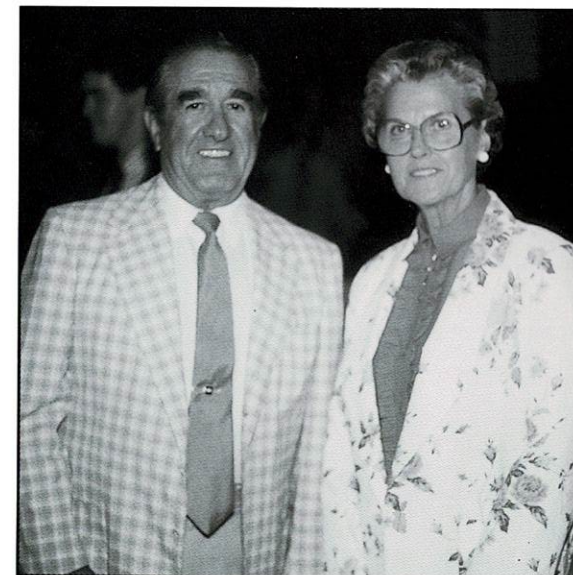
A diverse group at the 1977 Annual Meeting - left to right are Sandy Latimer, Rod Clay, Bruce Higginbotham, Jim Compton, Lloyd Lang and Ben Greene.



Hazel and Mike Kennedy at the 1976 Annual Meeting.



1984 - Chairman Carl DeSignore presents Tracy Hylton with a memento of his leadership in recruiting new members.



Jim and Julia Compton at the 1987 Annual Meeting.



Frank and Mary Alice Vigneault.

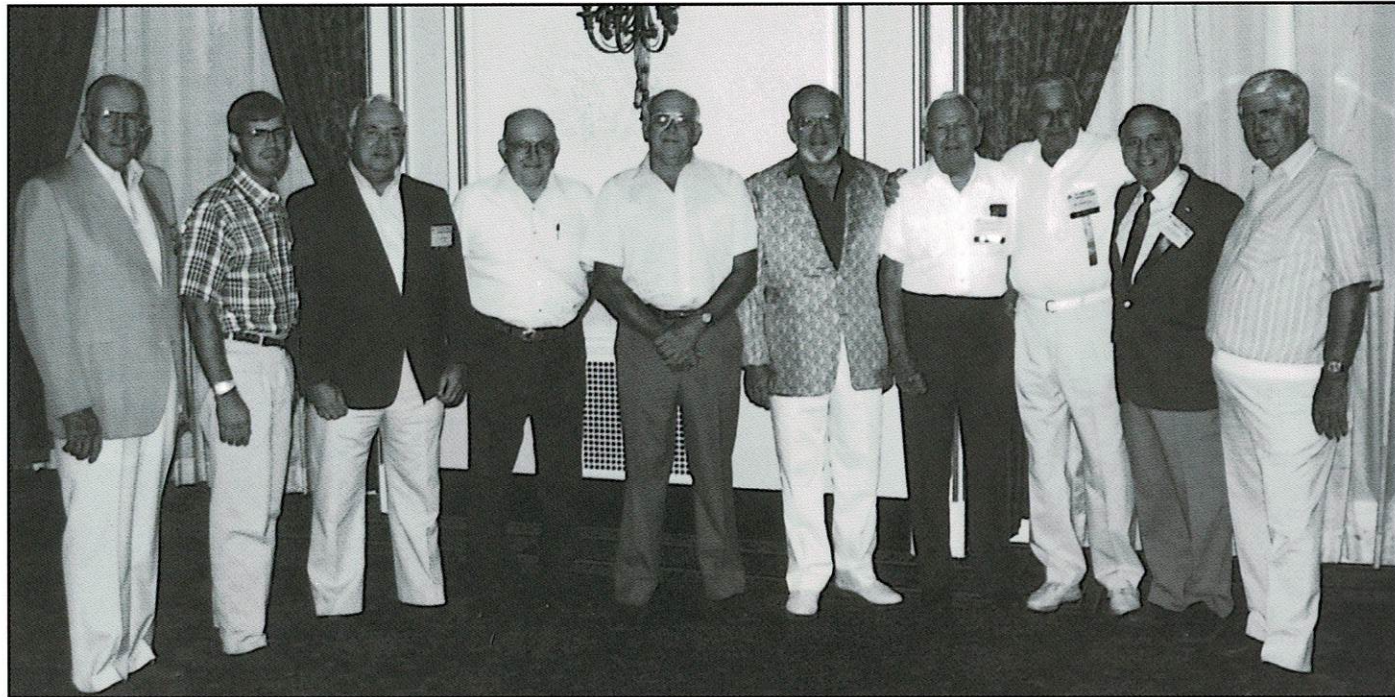


Don and Barbara Cussins



John and Carol Skidmore.

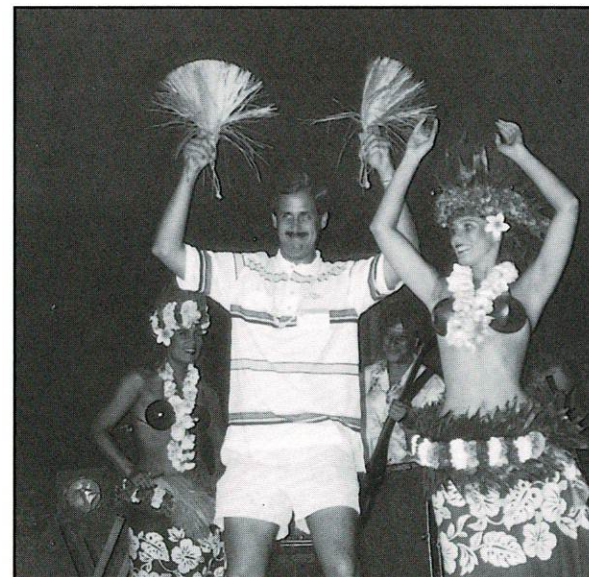
Association Scrapbook



Ten former chairmen gathered at The Greenbrier for the Silver Anniversary celebration. Left to right are Leo Vecellio, Ken Woodring, Don Cussins, Lawrence Streets, Frank Jennings, Lawson Hamilton, Jack Anderson, Bill Anderson, Don Donell and Tracy Hylton.



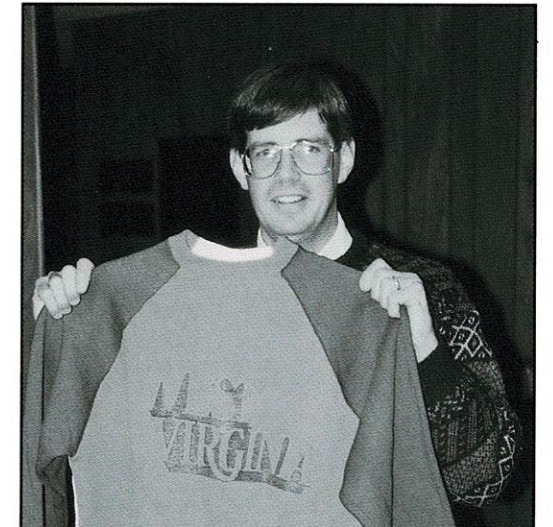
Celebrating on the island of Maui - Roger and Bunny Fitch, Fred and Martha Harless, Rachel and John Williamson.



Bruce Sparks gets a hula lesson. One wasn't enough.



The Coal Miners' Party has been a popular feature of the Annual Meeting since Lawrence Streets came up with the idea in the early 1980's



Chairman and Penn State graduate Ken Woodring got a Mountaineer surprise at the 1990 Lakeview meeting.



Long-time golf Chairpeople Betty and John Rader.



Leo Vecellio and Evelyn on his last trip to the Annual Meeting, just a year ago.

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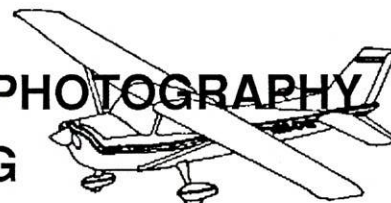
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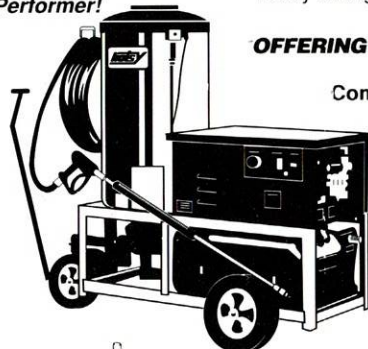
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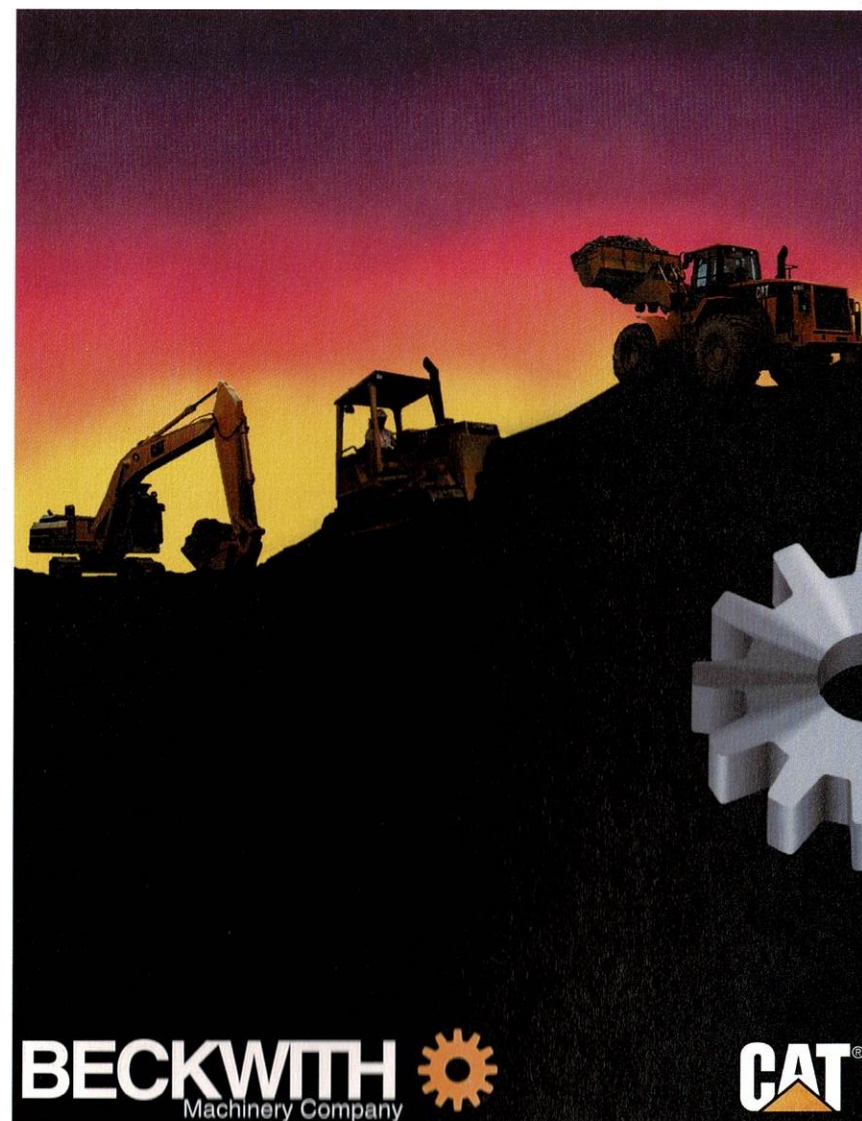
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