

# P E N S I O N S

**FOR COAL MINERS**




UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA **WELFARE AND**

**. . . FIRST**



Pensions  
(1951)

# PENSION CHECK



**A**N IMPRESSIVE and widely attended ceremony September 8, 1948, marked the culmination of more than a half century's tireless effort by the United Mine Workers of America to secure pensions for aged miners. On that afternoon, President John L. Lewis presented the first pension check as authorized under the United Mine Workers of America Welfare and Retirement Fund to Horace Ainscough, a 62-year-old miner who had started to work at the age of nine and worked for 53 years in the coal mines.

As he handed pension check Number 1 to Mr. Ainscough, President Lewis said to those assembled:

"This is not done in an individual capacity. It is done because he symbolizes the hundreds and thousands of other men in the industry equally entitled to the award of a pension who are following him in receiving the benefits of the pensions as accorded by the existing contract in the industry between the associated coal operators and the United Mine Workers of America. By lending himself to this great ceremony he will bring renewed hope, inspiration and courage to countless thousands of other men who have long dreamed of the day when protection of this sort would be accorded them

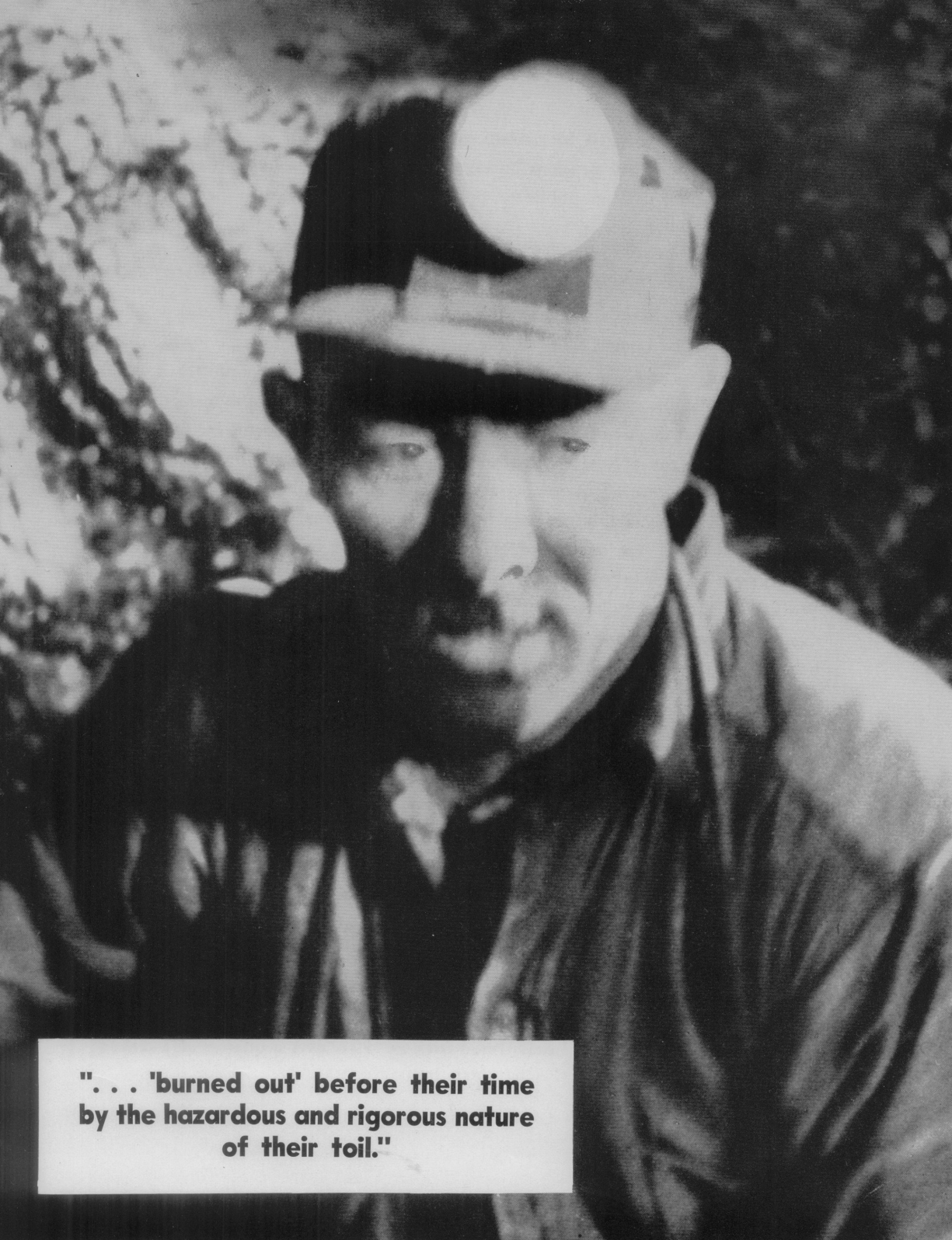
in their declining years. I know of nothing that so profoundly concerns a human being who approaches the mature years of life than the fear of ill health, the fear of incapacity, the fear of death when he leaves loved ones ill-provided for. This pension arranges to remove that burden, that weight, and that constant horror from the minds of untold numbers of people in our mining areas". Then he added, "It is increasingly important that this be done".

No one present at that momentous gathering failed to grasp the full significance of these two words "increasingly important", as President Lewis told the somber story of the decades of valiant struggle to achieve recognition of the human equities in coal mining, with all that such recognition means not alone to the countless men who give their lives to mining coal but also in equal measure to the future progress of the coal industry, to our vast national economy dependent on it, and to our entire American way of life.

## DESTRUCTION OF LIFE AND HUMAN VALUES IN PAST

Paying tribute to past generations of coal miners in whose time there was only the dream, never the realization of today's progress, President Lewis said: "During all this period, the productive years of the coal miners were utilized until their energy and life blood were taken by the industry. When they became disabled through the illnesses incident to the calling or the hazards of their occupation or from the ravages of old age, their services were dispensed with, their income cut off, and they could live or die according to the circumstances which attended them. Throughout that past period some millions of men have died premature deaths by violence in the mines or from the ailments incident to the industry, and those who were able to drag out existence did so under circumstances of poverty and tragedy which were appalling in themselves".

Then he paid tribute also to the mining population which through the years has unflinchingly accepted the sacrifices necessary to bear the burden of caring for the tragic victims of the industry — the disabled, those discarded as "too old", "burned out" before their time, by the hazardous and rigorous nature of their toil. He pointed out that there is scarcely a family in the mining industry which has not had some member killed or injured in the mines. Their numbers are legion who have undertaken to support someone who has been injured seriously in the mines and can



**". . . 'burned out' before their time  
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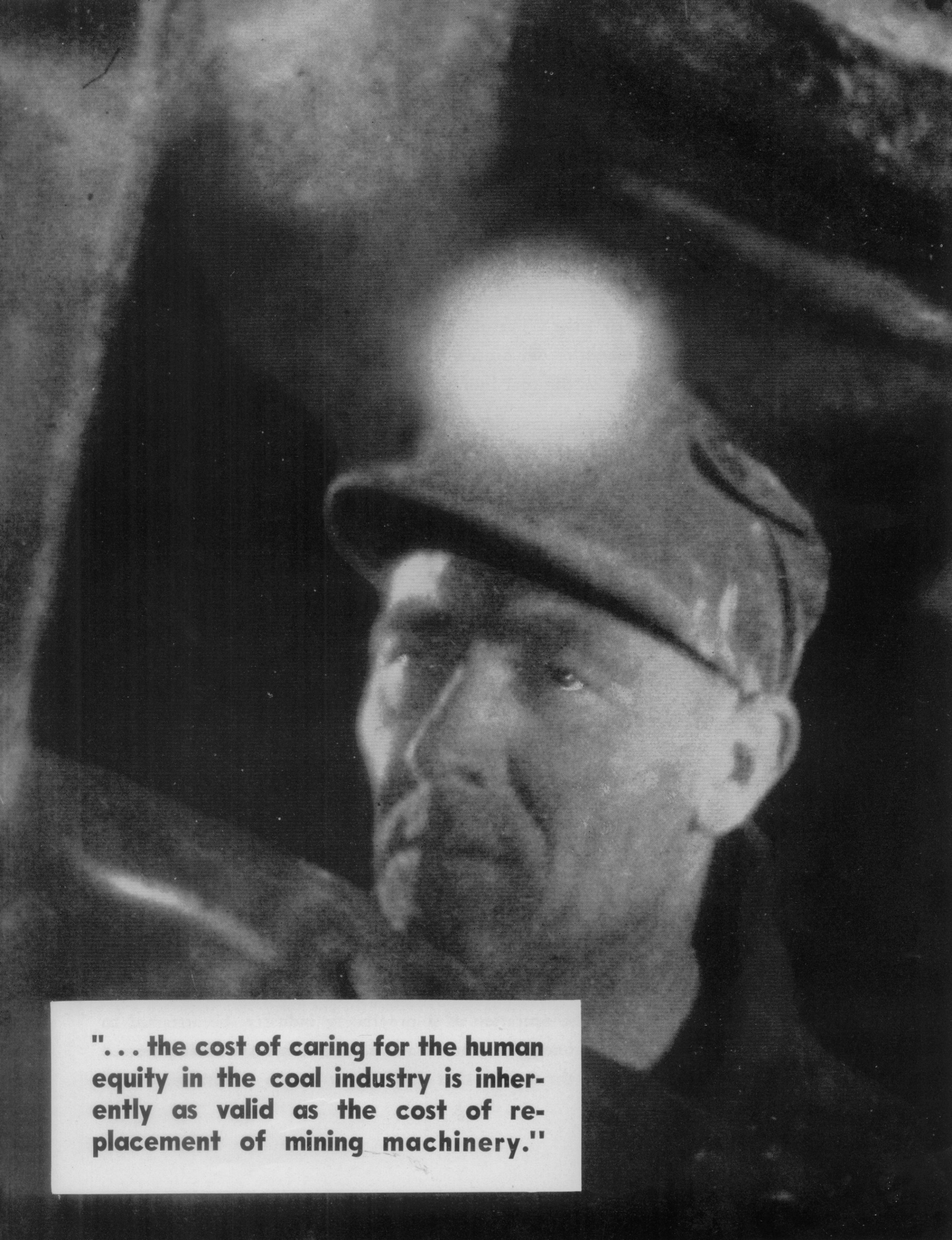
secure no other employment. To the limit of their ability and their income, the mining families have cared for these people. Even so, over 37% of the miners who finally received their pensions during the first year they were in effect had been forced to obtain aid from public or private charities before their pension checks started.

## CARING FOR HUMAN EQUITY A VALID COST OF COAL PRODUCTION

In contrast to this too long existing neglect of human needs, President Lewis pointed out: "The United Mine Workers of America has assumed the position over the years that the cost of caring for the human equity in the coal industry is inherently as valid as the cost of replacement of mining machinery, or the cost of paying taxes, or the cost of paying interest indebtedness, or any other factor incident to the production of a ton of coal for consumers' bins. It wasn't until the mine workers became sufficiently strong to compel attention be given to this subject by the coal industry and by the public at large, that these conditions were changed, and the first Welfare Fund was established by contract in 1946 by agreement between the Government of the United States, Department of the Interior, and the United Mine Workers of America. That agreement recognized in principle the fact that the industry owed an obligation to those employees, and the coal miners could no longer be used up, crippled beyond repair and turned out to live or die subject to the charity of the community or the minimum contributions of the State. There is no equity nor justification for the coal mines of this country to be able to kill 2,000 men per year and injure 65,000 annually merely to enable them to operate the industry and make a profit for themselves while the total cost of caring for those people in such manner as they were cared for was passed on to the taxpayers of the country regardless of whether they were consumers of coal or not. For that reason the United Mine Workers of America believe that they are setting a definite goal for others to follow to relieve the State of the necessity of caring for the extraordinary cost of industries which are particularly hazardous and violent".

## A PAGE FROM HISTORY

A page torn out of Union history shows the following resolution, similar to many others, passed by a Local Union back in 1921, over a quarter of a century ago:



**"... the cost of caring for the human equity in the coal industry is inherently as valid as the cost of replacement of mining machinery."**

“Whereas, we should take another step forward and provide an old age pension for our old, disabled members who fought and starved to establish this great organization; the old men endured a great deal of privation for years, and now in their declining days of old age and disability are forced to the county poor farm or the charity of our local unions, or the good people of their respective communities:

“Whereas, we, the younger members of the organization, have received the fruits of their labor. The old men laid the foundation for our advancement and the success of our organization that has given us the right to share in the prosperity of the coal industry.

“Resolved, that a committee be appointed by the President of District No. 12 to take a survey of the conditions of our old members, that they draft a form of old age pensions that our old members may be given some financial assistance;

“Resolved, that after they have drafted such plan that it be submitted to the rank and file of our district for a referendum vote for the adoption of the committee plan.”

## NEED FOR MECHANIZATION OF INDUSTRY STRESSED BY MINERS

Inseparably related to the basic principle of the United Mine Workers of America, that the care of the human element in industry is a legitimate production cost, has been their far-sighted insistence and pressure, unique in union history, that ever increasing mechanization of the coal mines was imperative; that future economic soundness of the industry had to be assured by greater productivity — more tons per man per day — through which new values would be created.

Over and over again the UMWA has pressed its point that only through such mechanization and technological improvements could the industry meet the costs of higher living standards in the industry; that only as such higher standards were assured and older men enabled to retire with dignity and security, could younger workers, all important to the operation of a progressive industry, be attracted to the coal mines. This joint concept of human and economic needs was emphasized by the UMWA throughout the decades that they fought for its acceptance.

Today's challenge calls even more insistently for the swift doing of all the things this concept envisions. The impact of those opening words of President Lewis, "It is increasingly important that this be done," received added force and significance as he closed his remarks that afternoon of September 8, saying, "The mining of coal in great volume at a constantly reducing unit cost is essential to our economy and is essential to the nation's future welfare. The world is yet on a coal economy and will be for a substantial period of time. The production of coal in this country has been of profound importance in recent years; so much so that it has been one of the sustaining pillars of our economic strength, our war strength and our future prosperity. And without that coal production America could not have maintained her superior strength during the recent war and could not have maintained her allies elsewhere throughout the globe. We need to make the industry more and more attractive to men to enable them to endure the hazards of the industry in the interest of the world".

#### PENSION EXPERIENCE OF 22 MONTHS

Even as President Lewis was presenting the first pension check, others were in preparation for several hundred aged miners whose applications followed closely upon that of Mr. Ainscough, and who, equally with him, symbolized the thousands to follow in receiving their deeply merited pensions. President Lewis referred also to three of these men:

"Leopaldo Menapace, 65, of Coal Creek, Colorado, who started to work in the mines when he was 8 years old. He worked steadily for 57 years until he had to quit in 1948 because of ill health.

"Giuseppe Cerasuolo, 66, of Allison, Pennsylvania, who spent 41 years in the mines. He was laid off January 1948 'because of old age.' He had worked 24 years steadily for the coal company that laid him off;

"William Watkins, 73, of Morris Run, Pennsylvania, who went to work in the mines at the age of 9. He worked for the same company for 63 years and was forced to quit in 1947 because of illness."

These three men were typical, as was Mr. Ainscough, not only of the first applicants for pensions, but also of the thousands who have received pensions during

the time in which pensions have been in effect — a period totalling 22 months, broken in September 1949, after the first 12 months of pension payments, by legalistic and other obstructions, which forced suspension of Fund payments. Not until June 1950, after the new 1950 Fund was established under the National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement of March 1950, were pensions resumed. Monthly payments were reinstated for pensioners who had previously received them, and pensions were authorized for applicants who met the eligibility requirements of the Fund; 60 years of age with 20 years service in the industry, 1 year's employment in the industry prior to retirement, and retirement after May 28, 1946.

### PENSIONERS' YEARS OF SERVICE AND AGE EXCEEDED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

As of March 31, 1951, after 22 months in which pensions had been in effect, 39,111 miners had received pensions, having met all eligibility requirements for this \$100 a month benefit, which is over and above any Social Security Old Age Insurance they may receive. The average years of service which these pensioners had given to the coal industry was 34. Only 17% had worked as few as 20-25 years. The average age of these pensioners at retirement was 64.8. 11% were over

### COAL MINERS WHO SPENT TOTAL OF 12 CENTURIES IN THE PITS



Pictured above are coal miners whose combined service record in the industry aggregates a total of 1,264 years. This group in the Middlesboro, Kentucky, area range in age up to 81 years. Names of those in the photo are: Vibert Gibson, Jim Kite, J. W. Brooks, E. W. Bradley, John W. Clark, W. H. Bullock, Charlie Nelson, Martin Hughes, Harrison Short, John Williams, Dock Howerton, Nath Bayless, Francis M. Warwick, Steve Howerton, B. A. Houston, William J. Redmon, Maynard Yoakum, Frank Turner, Foster Baker, White Pruett, Hana Davis, James I. Fultz, A. L. Shackelford, L. F. Good, Bob Turner, Joe D. Hyden, Boss Hammar, Dewey Young, Glade Carter, Lee Ross, P. H. Halcomb, L. B. Richardson, W. B. Luckadoo, Hubert Denny.

70. Not only did these men have new hope and security brought them by their pension checks, but 75 % of them had the added happiness of having their wives share with them the long hoped-for reality of pensions.

### THE FIRST YEAR OF PENSIONS

Of the total number of pensions, 39,111, authorized during the 22 months, 28,134 were authorized during the first year, September 1948 - September 1949. These authorizations of the first year represented retirements over a  $3\frac{1}{4}$  year period. Pensions did not start until  $2\frac{1}{4}$  years after their establishment had been accepted in principle by the May 1946 Agreement. 59 % of these 28,134 pensions were not for current retirements of the first year; they were for men who had retired during the  $2\frac{1}{4}$  years of forced delay in putting pensions into effect after their principle had been accepted.

The apprehension expressed by a few when pensions were first initiated, that all eligible miners would retire, was proved groundless by the retirement data. Obviously, these 28,134 miners retiring over a  $3\frac{1}{4}$  year period represented no rush to leave the mines by men able to continue working there, if work was available for them. Instead these men receiving pension checks — in every bituminous coal mining state, in practically every coal mining community — represented the old and worn out, the ill, the broken, the men who had been cast aside by the industry.

### STARTED TO WORK WHEN $6\frac{1}{2}$ YEARS OLD

A single life and work story, that of Jesse Columbus Mooney of Kentucky, exemplifies the qualities of courage, self-reliance and endurance which characterize these men of the mines. Mr. Mooney retired as he was nearing 70.

For 63 years he had been going down into the mines, starting as a trapper boy in 1885 when he was only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  years old. In those years the working day in many mines was *16 hours*, from 5 in the morning until 9 at night. Long before dawn Jesse would hurry over the cinder paths and rough roads to the mine, meeting in the darkness with other little lads of 6, 7, and 8, also on their way to work as trapper boys or slate pickers.

From trapper boy to driver to motorman to loader, Jesse Columbus Mooney worked ceaselessly and hard. He married, raised a family, and, as the earlier inhuman

# MOONEY RETIRES AFTER 63 YEARS MINING



hours in the mines were shortened, read and studied at night. He became a minister and was known affectionately as “Preacher” Mooney.

On September 30, 1948, “Preacher” Mooney left the mines for the last time. His fellow workers bade him farewell with these words:

“Our hats are off to you, Preacher; few men have excelled your record. 63 years of actual mining work, Vice-President of your Local Union, Chairman of your pit committee, a leader in your community, only one minor accident in all those years, and a clean, respectable life — that is something!”

“Preacher” Mooney, the little trapper boy of 6½, had earned his rest.

### OLDER MINERS DISABLED FOR FURTHER WORK

Typical of the many other miners who were 65 or older when they retired, are the following:

Mr. Sam Burger of West Virginia who was 78 years old when he retired, wrote of his life long work in the mines, saying, “All through the years of underground toiling, through all the miners’ ups and downs, I never dreamed of this day — being able to get along with the help of the retirement pension President Lewis won for the aged. I am very grateful”.



SAM BURGER

Mr. Rice Gray of Kentucky was 70 when he retired after 55 years in the coal mines, the last 33 with the same company. Expressing what the pension meant to him, he wrote of his past years, saying he “well remembers his younger days when he drove a mule for \$1.35 for a 10-hour day”.

And Mr. Jacob Branche of West Virginia, 68 at retirement with 50 years in the mines, wrote “a few years ago no one would have believed there would ever be a pension for the old miner. I have gone to work many a day when I didn’t think I would see home again. But now I can enjoy home and the blessed sunlight”.

More than half of the total number of men granted pensions the first year had left the mines because they were disabled for further work. Exemplifying these

thousands were Mr. Marvin Johnson, Indiana, Mr. Harry Walden, Iowa, and Mr. Carl Romich, Illinois.

Mr. Johnson wrote, on receipt of his first pension check in September 1948: "My heart was made so glad this morning, I shed tears for joy, when I received my first pension check. I want to thank you to the bottom of my heart John L. Lewis and the entire staff of the United Mine Workers for their faithful efforts and accomplishments in this struggle for the miner's rights. I will soon be 63 years old, been a member of the United Mine Workers 47 years. I have had 37 years service in the coal mines. I have been hauled out four times for dead and now I am crippled for life, but thank God, my last days will be the best days of all my life".

From Mr. Walden, 63 years of age with 49½ years in the coal mines, came the following letter, typical not only of the physical toll taken by the industry, but equally so of the calm and courageous spirit with which miners accept its hazards and still like to "carry on": "I have had both legs, both shoulders, 4 ribs, foot, jaw and cheek-bone broken in the mines and by working in water and bad air, have contracted arthritis and a little asthma. However could do a fair day's work in mines, but that's impossible as all mines in this vicinity have played out, and all other occupations being what they are, competition calling for young men under 45 finds us old men out of place. Which makes me doubly thankful for the pension. I think I can safely estimate that one-fourth of miners here about are too old for competition".

And 72 year old Carl Romich, with 48 years service in the mines, wrote of his long experience underground, closing his letter: "I want to thank you and the members of the Board for the retirement check which I was most happy to receive. I never dreamed that I would ever live this long after many years of hard work to receive such humanitarian assistance. I had to retire due to a mine injury and consequently have been unable to do any kind of work since, even outside jobs."

Thirty-four per cent of the pensions granted during the first year were to men who had been "laid off", and applied for a pension only after their job ended.

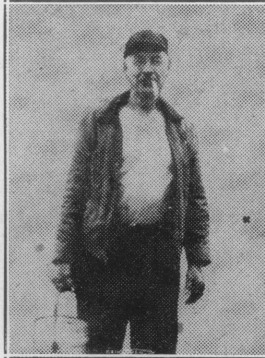
Among these was James Albert Reagan, 72 years old. For 61 years, since he started in the coal mines at 11, he had worked continuously for one company in Pennsylvania. His unbroken service was ended when he was laid off "on account of old age" in March 1949, after which he applied for his pension.

And from 67-year-old Patrick O'Neal, Illinois, for whom mining days were over, came the words "At best, I guess I do not have too much longer to live, but with the freedom from financial worry that my pension gives me, they will be the happiest days of my life."

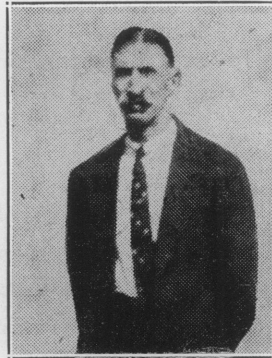
## WHAT THE MEN WHO KNOW SAY ABOUT PENSION



John Stamper, Willard Ky., L. U. 8577: "Miner's pension is a wonderful thing for those who have given years of hard labor."



L. W. Foraker, Cambridge, Ohio, L. U. 9317, miner for 56 years, who views pension as "a dream I thought would never come true."



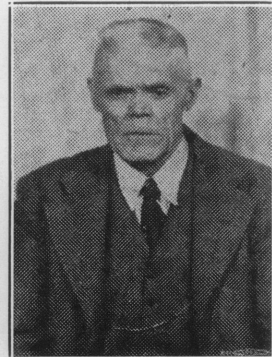
J. H. Scott, 62, Norton, Va., 44 years in mines: "Thanks to UMWA for what it has meant to me and for making possible the miner's pension."



Elmer Stump, Byesville, Ohio, L. U. 9317, coal miner for 46 years: "Because I'm too old to work any more I'm thankful for pension."



J. D. Lucas, 72, Burnwell, W. Va., miner 53 years: "Thanks to John L. Lewis for fixing it so old miners can live without depending on charity."



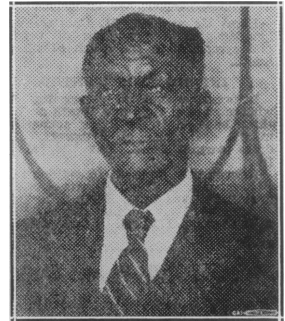
Joe Sinkus, Evarts, Ky., who suffered years of heartache and back-breaking toil, certainly deserves a \$100 pension, his co-workers say.

From letters of Mr. Michael Kukol, Pennsylvania, Mr. R. K. Kerskey, Kentucky, and Mr. Paul McHacy, West Virginia, telling of the long, bitter struggle of their early mining days and the ending of further work opportunities, are the following excerpts: "I have reached the end of the line. Without our pension I don't know what would become of us old timers"; "Time was when we old miners were turned out to nip grass like a mule when we were no longer able to work. But we all thank God it is not that way now, but that instead, our friend John L. Lewis sends us home to eat bread and not grass"; "I am glad after spending 47 years in the coal mines that I can walk with head straight up and feel a little sunshine in my heart, instead of seeing a hopeless road before me, which leads only to the poorhouse or the bread line."

Only 9% of the men retiring during the first year of pensions did so merely because they wished to avail themselves of the pension.

Back of the "wish to avail themselves of the pension" were an infinite number of individual human pressures leading to the decision. There was the pressure of wives never free from the terror of mine explosions and mine accidents, never free from the fear that their men may not come home alive. There was the slowly growing realization that the aged with their long experience in the hand mining methods of the past could not match the quick, sure reaction of youth or meet the demands of highly mechanized mining, with its powerful swiftly moving machines. There was also the sound, though relatively rare, acceptance of the vitally important principle underlying pensions—that a man of 60 who had given 20 years service in what is still the most hazardous and arduous industry, is entitled to retire as a matter of course.

**Kept At It To Age 74**

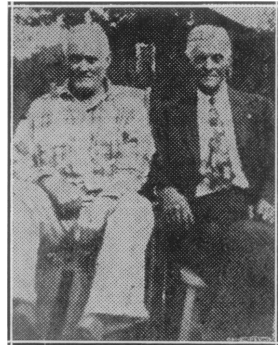


HENRY CLAY ORR

## TEN MONTH PENSION EXPERIENCE UNDER THE 1950 FUND

The experience under the 1950 Fund has continued to show that there is no danger that retirements threaten production with "lost manpower". The number of applications received during this 10-month period has declined sharply; the monthly average number was more than 50% below the monthly average number received

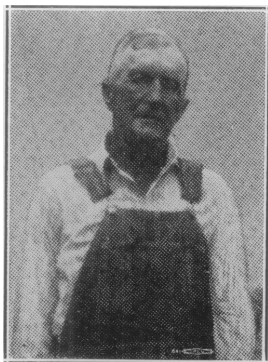
during the first year. Included in the first year's applications, however, was the backlog accumulating during the long waiting period of 2 years and 3 months. Current retirements of the first year were only 41 % of the total. As compared with the monthly average number of these current retirements during the first year, the monthly average number of applications for current retirements during the 10 months under the 1950 Fund showed a 27 % decrease. Ever since increased production needs in the early fall of 1950 made more work available, miners still able to mine coal have largely continued in the mines, regardless of their qualification for a pension. The men who have retired have done so almost entirely because they were disabled for further coal mining or because they were considered by management "too old" to find or keep mining jobs. Typical of those who have retired only recently are the records of the following: Two brothers, Silas and Calvin Sinnett, 70 and 68 years of age, of West Virginia, each having worked 45 years in the mines. They wrote, "We have seen our dream come true—a dream that coal miners ever since 1890 had hoped some day would be a reality—[pensions]."



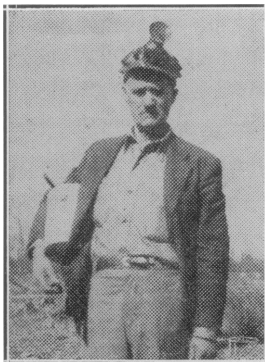
SILAS A. SINNETT, LEFT, AND  
CALVIN M. SINNETT

Mr. Ogle Dixon of Illinois, retiring at 73 years of age, with 62 years in the mines, wrote of what the pension and the Fund has meant to him, "I had to go to the hospital and get three treatments for skin cancer on my face and my face is cured fine. Praise God for that but our retirement fund made it possible for me to have it done. I have done 62 years in a coal mine and will be 74 years old the last day of this month with a union card that has never been delinquent."

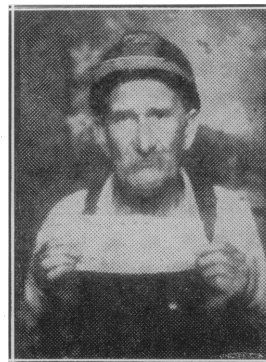
Writing in behalf of his father, his mother and his brothers and sisters, the son of Mr. Edward O'Neal, Kentucky, says "Dad is now in the hospital as a result of cerebral hemorrhage and is unable to write". Telling about other members of the family, he adds, "For them and mother, who is affected by impaired hearing, I wish to state that we wholeheartedly appreciate the progress that the Mine Workers has made in the coal fields". He described his father's tireless work and interest in helping on all matters pertaining to the Welfare Fund "as long as father was capable of realizing".



J. A. Schrock, 67, Clarksville, Ark.,  
". . . my sincere appreciation for  
what the UMWA has meant to me."



Burrell D. Jones, 63, Crossville,  
Tenn., ". . . how much better it is  
now for us miners than in 1913 . . ."

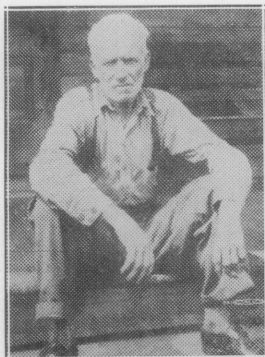


Charlie Shelton, 70, Drift, Ky.;  
"John Lewis lifted us old fellows out  
of pauperism."

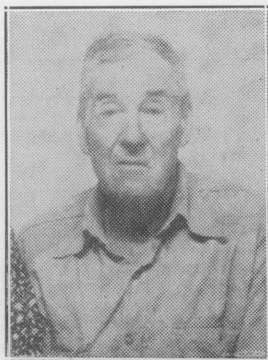
From Indiana, Mr. Henry Mercer, who worked 53 years in the mines, wrote: "I had to retire because of asthma, but with our pension, my wife and I are contented because we don't have to depend on charity. May God spare John L. Lewis for all he has done for we old miners who are broken in health".

## FOUNDATION LAID FOR BASIC OBJECTIVE OF PENSIONS

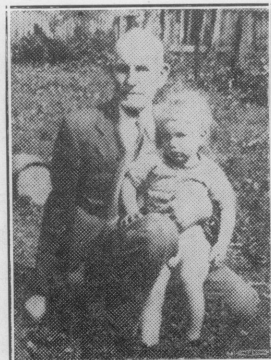
As retirement pensions, under their industry wide provisions, extend into their permanent future the basic objective of this forward-looking, comprehensive program may be expected to come nearer realization. Increasing acceptance by miners of pensions, "in the sense he is being paid for services rendered," when they meet age and service requirements, will tend to bring about a reduction in the excessive years of work and extreme age—far beyond eligibility requirements—which characterized the early pensioners. Expressions from men retiring only recently, as those in a letter from Mr. Charles Holden of Illinois, indicate this attitude is developing. Mr. Holden wrote on receipt of his first check in January 1951: "I am deeply grateful and I want to thank you from the very depths of my heart. I am 65 years of age with 52 years experience in the coal mines; 46 years of which I have been an active member in the United Mine Workers of America. I am very proud of the pension plan as established by the UMW of A, not only from a monetary viewpoint, but also for the fact that it gives the aged miner a sense of personal dignity that otherwise he could not have if he were forced to



Calvin Bell, 69, Philipsburg, Pa., initiated into mining at 10, "... thanks to the UMWA for my pension."



Hiram Salsbury, Hunter, Ky., "... things are a lot different nowadays ... give praise to President John L. Lewis."

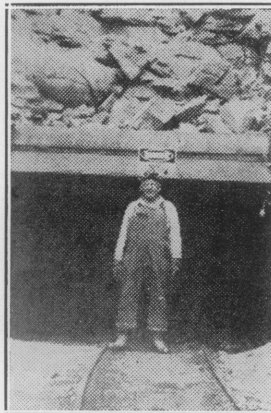


Anderson Pack, 80, Winifrede, W. Va., 70 accident-free years in mines, "... wish I could have gone on ..."

become a ward of charity. The aged miner accepts his pension in the sense that he is being paid for services rendered."

As the records of miners retiring over the years ahead approximate more closely the 60 years of age and 20 years of service now in effect as age and service qualifications for pensions, industrial progress and human equities will increasingly be served. The coal industry, seeking constantly higher productivity in its obligation to meet nation-wide, world-wide demands for coal output, can move steadily forward with more mechanization, more technological improvements, as younger men are attracted to the mines to run the high-powered machines which give the all important more tons per man per day. The men who apply for pensions will no longer be largely the broken and ill, those cast aside after excessive years of toil; they will be men leaving the mines with "a sense of personal dignity", with the knowledge that their past years of service are recognized as of value to the nation and that their remaining years may be lived with security and the peace of mind due them. They will be the living evidence of the soundness of the principle on which pensions were finally established.

#### **Dodged Rocks 47 Yrs. Before Retiring**



J. C. WALKER

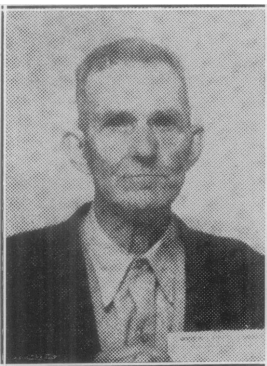
Never has the far reaching and full significance of the principle of industry-wide pensions now functioning in the coal mining industry been more lastingly made clear than in the words of Horace Ainscough, recipient of the first check, and of President Lewis at a great meeting soon after the presentation of Mr. Ainscough's check.

Telling of his tragic mine injury 30 years before, Mr. Ainscough said: "I would like to go back just for a moment to 1918. It was quite a day in history—the 11th day of November 1918. You all know it as Armistice Day. On that day I lay in a hospital paralyzed from the waist down with the thought that I would never more walk, as told by my doctors. It turned out that the doctors were wrong. A broken rope had caused the accident. I was the rope rider.

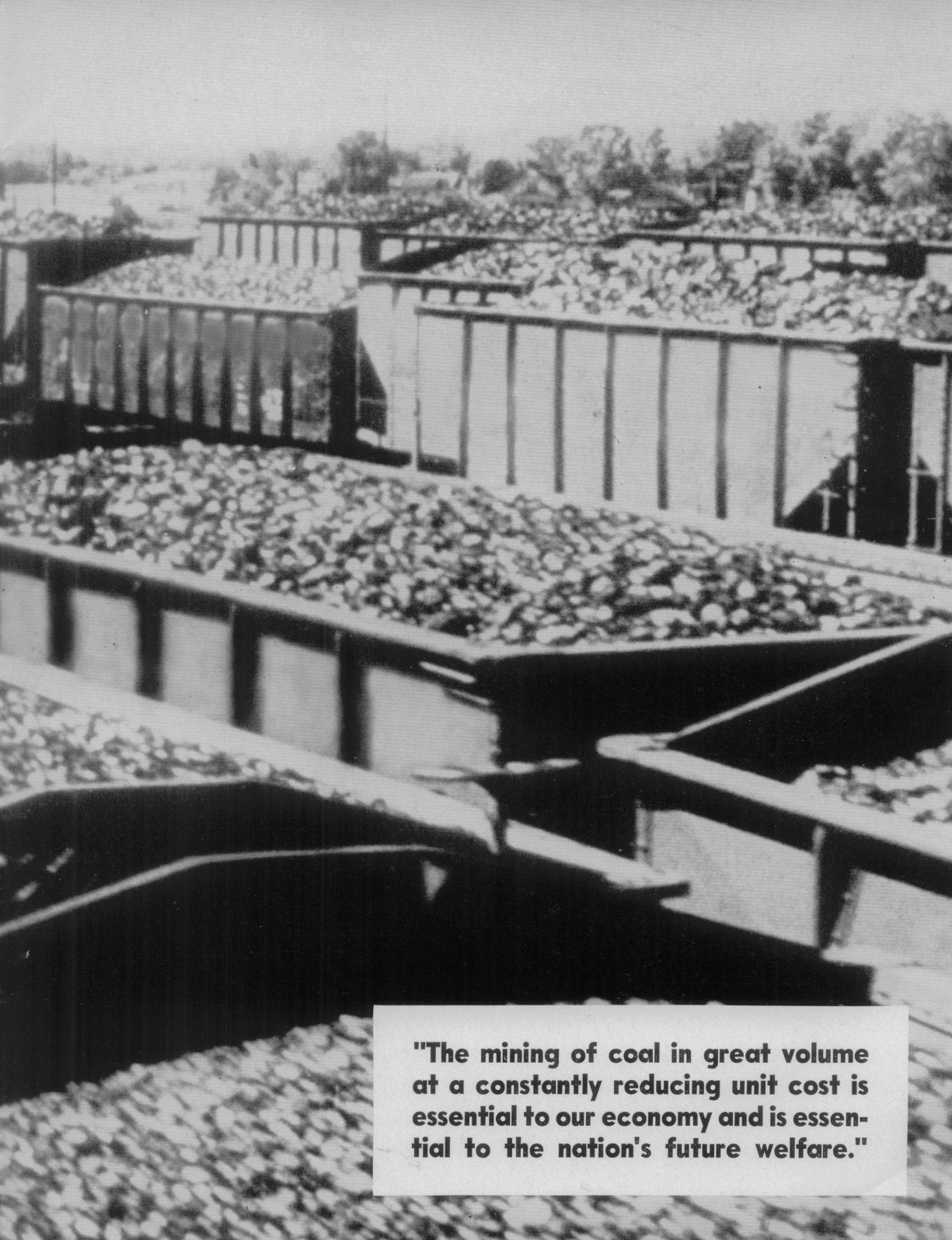
"Surely you will have an understanding of how I felt when you think of the paralytics who are sent to our hospital. I know how they feel. They have a smile on their faces when they face you in the hospital when you visit them. They have joy in their hearts to see you when you come, but wait until the nighttime, wait 'til they have gone to bed and are dreaming, dreaming of their loved ones and thinking of all it means to them when they realize that they will never walk anymore. The man has a funny feeling in the night. He doesn't go to sleep, I can tell you that. I know that man's

feelings. I have experienced them. I will tell you just in a few words how that man feels. He just would like for someone to take a hammer and beat his brains out and he would be the happiest man in the world. So you can just realize what our Welfare and Pension Fund is going to do for those boys. It is going to make them happy if it is only for the realization that you are going to try to help them put a little bit of courage into their hearts." He then referred to his statement when his check was presented him in Washington, saying: "I am going to repeat it. I said that I wasn't thinking there of myself so much, but I was thinking of the old folks and their families. I was thinking of the widows and orphans, the sick, and the injured, beneficiaries under our Welfare and Retirement Program. I said they couldn't be there as I was to give thanks and tell of the joy in

#### **An Old Timer Leaves The Pit**



W. M. "Pap" Fraley, 66, Drift, Ky., veteran local union officer who mined coal for 38 years.



**"The mining of coal in great volume at a constantly reducing unit cost is essential to our economy and is essential to the nation's future welfare."**

their hearts to John L. Lewis, our President. I said, 'They are not here and I can say it for them', and in the spirit of all the old folks from coast to coast I spoke. I said with thanks and joy in my heart and deep humility, and a fervent prayer on my lips, 'God bless the day John L. Lewis was born'."

And President Lewis, replying to Mr. Ainscough, said: "These few words spoken by Brother Ainscough this morning come not only from his heart, but they come from the hearts of the countless numbers of men who now have the fear of tomorrow lifted from their minds and their hearts so they can sleep at night and not believe that perhaps tomorrow they will die in neglect. It is not charity that is extended to them. We don't ask for charity in the mining industry. We ask for what is right.

*"There is only one security for America in the future. Our free institutions will not endure and the oppressors of the land will become dominant and labor will again be made serf unless the people increasingly are given participation in the bounties of our land, in its great natural resources, in its productive efficiency, and are permitted constantly to have their share. If that is done—and it will be done if labor recognizes its obligation to itself and its country—if that is done no one need fear Communism in America, Fascism in America, or any kind of 'ism' in America, because the people who are given that participation, who have a job that gives them a proper participation, who can dream of having a home for their families and the right to educate their children—those men will protect that flag and our America".*



CORNELIUS PRINTING COMPANY  
SILVER SPRING, MD.

## A PAGE TORN OUT OF HISTORY

our great organization,

"Whereas, we should take another step forward and provide an old age pension for our old and disabled members who fought and starved to establish this great organization; the old men endured a great deal of privation for years, and now in their declining days of old age and disability, are forced to the county poor farm or the charity of our local unions, or the good people of their respective communities:

"Whereas, we, the younger members of the organization, have received the fruits of their labor. The old men laid the foundation for our advancement and the success of our organization that has given us the right to share in the prosperity of the coal industry;

Resolved, that a committee be appointed by the president of District No. 12 to take a survey of the conditions of our old members, that they draft a form of old age pensions that our old members may be given some financial assistance;

"Resolved, that after they have drafted such plan that it be submitted to the rank and file of our district for a referendum vote for the adoption of the committee plan.

**From the Report of the Old Age  
Pension Commission Made Over a  
Quarter of a Century Ago to the  
Convention of the United Mine  
Workers of America.**

"The resolution  
resolution when amended