

PROPERTY OF INSTITUTE
OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
244 CALIFORNIA HALL

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA
NEWS BUREAU
907 15th Street, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

For Release
After 2 P.M.
September 9, 1948

RETIRING MINER
STARTED WORK AT 9

Washington, D. C., September 9, 1948. — H race Michael Ainscough, 62, first member of the United Mine Workers of America to receive a pension from the UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund, went to work in the coal mines near Lancashire, England, at the age of 9.

Since that time in 1895, Mr. Ainscough never has worked at any other occupation.

And since that time in 1895 — 53 years ago — Mr. Ainscough boasts proudly that he has always held a union card. And he always has been in good standing.

He came to America in 1904, landing at Halifax, Nova Scotia. He worked in the mines in Nova Scotia and then in the mines at Fernie, British Columbia. From 1927 to February 1948, when he had to quit work for the first time because of illness, he worked for the Union Pacific Coal Company, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

Mr. Ainscough has three children, Jack, 28, a former Navy flyer wounded in action; Richard, 19, now studying at the Naval Electronics School at Treasure Island, California; and Mrs. Lilcen Martin, 28. Jack now lives at Glendale, California. Mrs. Martin is a resident of Reliance, Wyoming. She is the mother of three children.

Mr. Ainscough and his wife, Gwendolyn Rose, own their own home in Rock Springs. Their home is rich with the tradition of the old West, having been built in 1862. It was formerly a school house.

The retiring coal miner is an ardent trout fisherman and also enjoys working in his woodworking shop in his home and putting in his flower garden.

He says he will miss the camaraderie of the mines but that he still visits with his former fellow workers and has permission from the company to go into the mines at any time.

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