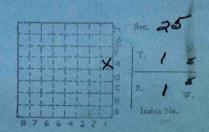
MODRES MODERN HETHOUSE
Form 180 Blue

Peabody #21 Centralia C.C. #5 Mil #86 50



5-1



(2) Appre Corporation, Rochester, N. Y. Binder and holes in leaves, each Patented 1906,

	(30031-300-0-23)	La destin	
		Mine Address Gentralia	
	Operator Centralia Com	1 60	
	Main Office Address _ Con	stralia III	
		307 N Michigan Ave	
		Chicago III	
	Location of Mine.	County Washington	
	Townsmp Name	County Pashing 1941	季
	Section No. 25 Tow	nship/ Range/	W
	Indicate location of mine and in plat of section North	position of R. R. tion below.	
		III asa	
		Kindly state number	of fee
		<i>‡ 1   3</i>	
		from	
,		300 from	S. lin
W est		from	W. lin
		THE STATE OF THE S	
		Idle entire year 19	Yes
		A fun	No
		Abandoned (date) 19_	
		<b>新</b>	
	South	- <del> </del>	
	Surface landing is 505 fee	t above sea level or aboutfeet (al	ove)
		(nearest town)	
	Depth to top of coal is 53		
	Average thickness of coal is	6feet6_inches.	
	Do not	fill in below this line.	
	Cool Rad Name Bellevill	Survey No.	
		Index No.	
	V-MINE LOCATION SHEI		



Date Aug 4, 1931 Sec. 25 T. / N R. / W Operator, Contralia Coal Co 4th West. Over Koom 13 off 13th South DESCRIPTION OF SECTION (AT POINT SAMPLED) No. No. (Note character and thickness of roof) Inches Top of Seam. Irregular Slate roof. 11 IV Good Parting Pyrite 1/16 Very dull cool band 3/4 10 Good parting Pyrite lamina (9) Parite parting 'he 9 (8) charcool parting 8 (6) Charcoal 1/3 7 (5) Charcoal 1/4 (4) Blue Band, Hard Pyrite 5 (2) Pyrite lense 14 (1) Fire Clay med hard. 1 (Note character and thickness of floor) Total thickness of coal 3 Condition, Time, hr. min. Net, Wt. Gross, lbs. lbs. What Nos. shipped by Co.? Excluded from sample: No. Sample represents tons. Impurities? How do they occur? (I division 3 in.) Sample No. 16 Can No. R-16 Lab. No. Collector, Amuchelan Coal: Survey No. Co. Washington Mine, Centralia #5 Index No.

R.—COAL SAMPLE SHEET.

4600' west and 4200' South of shift.

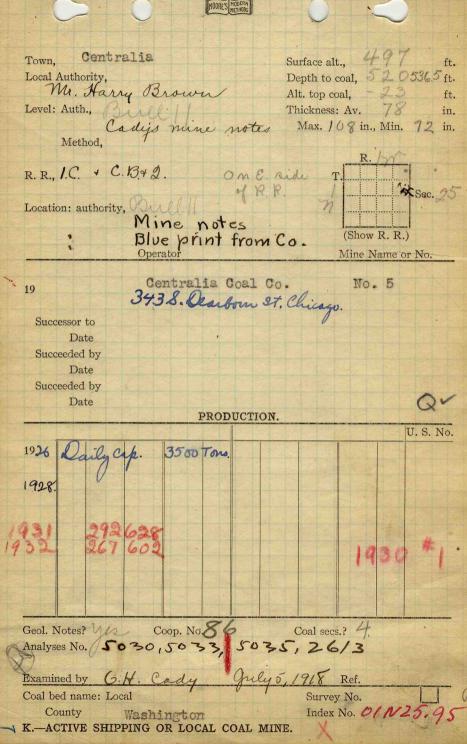
MOORE'S MODERN Column 14 much difficulty was This column as it bishe out on us and had to cut another Energthing is in the dixes in their correct order with the exception that a piece of roof state mas put in the bottom of Box to the column man be cracked but the puch of are put together dug 4 1931 Hanicholm There are two cans but the enully sure not n The cans. Vaughan

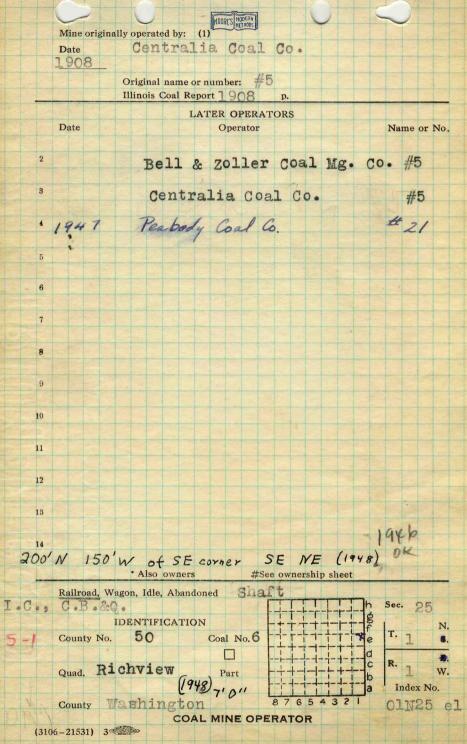


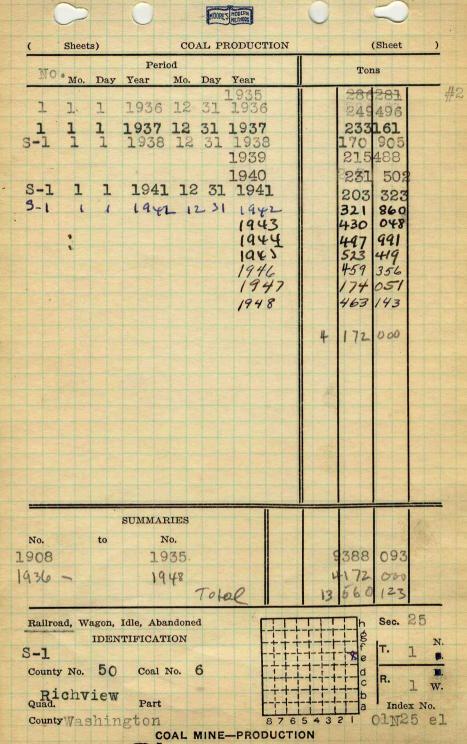
Operator, Centralia Mining Co Mine, No 5 Sec. 25 Location in mine. Room 4 3rd South 6th West (Note character and thickness of roof) No. Inches himestone Roof. 11 Top of Seam 85" Fairly Clean Coal 10 (11) Charcost and pyrete parting 1/16 (10) Dull Gad band, Duller than Usual. 9 9) Charcoal parting (9) 8 (7) Charcoal parting 14 (6) Pyrite laming 16 (5) Very dull coal '2 (4) Good Charcoal parting " charcoal (3) Steel band, Pyrite lenses /X6, acc (2) Very Dull Boney Coul-Blue Band") 14 (1) Fire Clay. (Note character and thickness of floor) Total thickness of coal Condition, Time, hr. min. Wt. Gross, lbs. Net. lbs. What Nos. shipped by Co.? Excluded from sample: No. Sample represents tons. Impurities? How do they occur? (1 division=3 in.) Sample No. /7 Can No. 13-17 Lab. No. Collector, AMuchelon Coal: Survey No. Mine, Centralia =5 co. Washing ton Index No.

R.\_\_COAL SAMPLE SHEET.

5800' South and 1500' went of shift.







? E side /. C. Location:

side

side Highway No.

Location sheet Map Files# 6-41-4 on top, map

Elevation: Method, 1. Est. ( 2. Inst. (kind Plane Table

ByBlomstran NB616 p.24 Data sheet DEPTH

Co-Mr. Schooler To coal Rail to rail Authority

Thickness

(Est. Rule) Top of coal above rail.

To coal

ALTITUDE OF TOP OF COAL

By estimated data\_\_\_

By instrumental data

in. Min.

in. Aver.

R. R.

R. R.

GEOLOGICAL DATA 1918 Mine notes, date

Max.

Coop No. Pyr. inv. Coal Ash inv.

CHEMICAL DATA

U. I. Analyses Face B. M. U.I. Car B. M. Org. Sulf U. I. B. M. B. M.

Ash fusion U.I. Ash anal. U.I. B. M. U.I.

B. M. #86 U.C.I. 145 R.I. 126 Classification

Misc. tests: Coking.

Cleaning

Boiler

Others

Others

Others

Others

Others

Others

Published descriptions:-

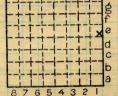
Railroad, Wagon, Idle, Abandoned

IDENTIFICATION

County No. 50

Coal No. 0

Quad. Richniew County Washington Part



Sec. 25

Index No.

OIN 25-10

#### Location and Elevation Data

Location:	Exact	Approximate	
(Appro	eximate only if no trace	of record of original ex	rists)
Location by	Comstran		
Date	Not	cebook No6.1.6	Page. 24
Looseleaf ref			
Map files No6	41-4		
	Description of	f Location	# 1
	Position in sec., 1/2		
		, 500., 10 acres	
feet	from North line		Sec. 25
feet	from East line		6
			e T / N.
feet	from South line		C D A
		<b>-++++</b>	O K
feet	from West line		a / W.
		87654321	
		Farm	
Other description:		No	
		Company Cent	tralia
***************************************		Carl	
		No5	
		County No. 5	
•••••••••••	Elevation 50	4.7	
	By 3		
Method: Level, trans	sit, alidade, hand level	oT.	
	ve ground		
	No		
			Landing of the second s
	(A=11 1-1		42200000
Description of item:	(drill hole, mine, etc.)		
County Washing	Vor Quadrangle,	T. J N.	
28294—5M—5-5-37	Richy	Index No.	01/V25E1
	preno		1112361

Mine No. 5 Town: Centralia, Ill Centralia Coal Co-Cap. rock. Ls. 36 14 thick in layers. Rather Vokher places separated from coal by as fire clay which attains a thickness of Immediate roof. Most commonly black 1 Slate which aver 18" in thickness . This 1sa good roof. May be as muchas 36" thick contact with coal fairly clean. Rarely contact with coal fairly clean. Rarely contact Sources of coal Saw none. Sulphur plates between rough coal not uncommon. Honzontal variation Every same: only variation due to pinching out under 1s. Drawslate None Coal bed. May. 108 Min. 72, Horr. 78
Benches: Top bench. fairly persistent
Mothercoal parting insomplaces sulphursheaks
in parting "orless. Topbench 10" to 18"±
Middlebench. Contains clay soulphur
struk alocat ""or tests." streaks about 48" + Reston blueband. Bottom bench 10-15" above floor . -Collector Cady July 5, 1918
Mine Centralia Coal 6 No5 Coal No 6

J

K

Mine Notes . Washington Co. Index No NO125

Bedded imporities: Most constant is blue band! about 12" thick. Not known to entirely run out in places gets then, however. Dkgrayish blue shale commonly pyriliferous. Pyrite seems to be impregnated with clay so that it looks rather impure in many places. Of Next importance in the pyrite parting and clay parting about 21/2 3 inches about 1/2 3 inches about live band. This is very constant This pyrite very pure, stony, Recoverable Trends to come fue of bed. In places nearly 2 inches thick, commonly 3/4" aur for entire wine about 1/4" 6-8 mches above the pigute is an enterwheted layer of pegute lenses of less unportant I commonly not in evidence. a fourth zone of pyrite hes between after a made bearly of coal. This pyrite commonly 1/4" or less! Other steaks of pyrite not uncommon. a braded chale - uplaces 4-6" Unk in places his in the top of meadle beach. Toreth reparating top , made Collector: Cady Mine: Centralia Coal Co July 5, 1918, Coal NoG No5

Washington

Co. IndexNo NO125

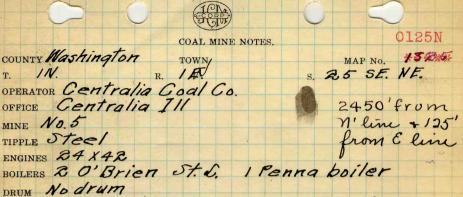
Mine Notes 2.

K3 Irreg in continuity of hed. Of greatest interest in the mine is the NNWSSE fault- (see mine map) while crosses the eastside of mine The throw so only 3 feet - The fault plane petches toward downthrow Side (normal facili). East of fault roal dips sharply X to the east. also apst loward faultplane four west for 100 ful orzo. Polch 150+ slight dip E 10-13 The coal on the east Dide of the qualit flatter out somewhet after 200 feeton 20 but the eastward out shell perens to ata leser mate Collector Cady Coal & No 5 July 5, 1918. Coul No6 Washington Colhley No N 0125 Mine Notes 3

Fast of the fault the coalin all very badly shattered Crack parallel to derection of shucline pass through the coal. K3 Conta is rund more marked than in the effects folding on Nox coal in the transherse & bed wer atgregters to make fault steeply \$ N.E. seared week execute or gypening of the muce is very badly shattered report shorting this wary afficient from the Su partof the weene where there where where the cool shorts who large sold blocks. Coffector: Cady July 5, 1918 - No 6 Mine: Centralia Coal & No 5

Mine Notes No 4. Washington C. Index No. No12:

Measurements Room G. 5N, SW Coal, clean. Blue band (Blbuck) 66" (10" topcoal) Coal End of 5th N. SW. Moof-Coal-in roof prob-18 ± 33" C. Sulphur Nº5 614 Shale 427 Mu AX 62 Shale C-6314 45 4 131. 6nd. 56 314 Coal 123/4 79% The above Isan unusually dirty section Troom 8 - 8N. Roof not mis almo Coal 28" Coalsclay 8" Coal 1 31" 67 131. Ld L81/2 Coal 90" Corrector Cady Lucy 5 1918 Centralia C. C. Nos traccoal No 6 · Mine Notes No 5 Washington Co. Index No No125



CARS 3 FOM VENTILATION Stevenstan 10ft.

SPRINKLING ONCE IN 24 HOURS,

WORKING SYSTEM ROOM Y Pillar

HAULAGE electric

MINING METHODS Mine just opened. Entries under-cut & sheared, Rooms undercut & shot.

cross entries 12' CROSS CUTS 8' ROOM 25' SIZE OF ENTRIES-MAIN 13" NECK 12'

SHAFT 3 compartment CAGE Self dumping

SIZE OF PILLARS-MAIN 100' CROSS 25 ROOM

CHAIN 25 BARRIER SHAFT 500' SIZE

AMOUNT OF TIMBERING PROPORTION OF COAL UTILIZED 50%

AMOUNT AND CHARACTER OF WASTE

ACREAGE OF COAL MINED Just driving entries

Trumbetter later

ACREAGE OF COAL REMAINING . Lrun better later proportion of mine run and screened coal 55% screening will,

METHOD OF SIZING Round hole screens
SIZES Lump, eqq 9 screenings 8,6, toly Mesk

PROPORTION AND SIZE OF WASHED COAL

Much concretey brick used DAILY OUTPUT UTILIZATION Fanencased in concrete Foundations all concrete MARKETS

o'mokestack of brick FREIGHT RATES

SELLING PRICES AT MINE

COST OF LAND OWNED

ADDITIONAL MODEO

COAL LAND OWNED

LEASED LEASED HELD IN FEE HELD IN FEE

0125N 2000年



0125N MAP No. 45

COUNTY Washington FARM

TOWN T.

R.

HOLE No.

SEC.

OPERATOR AUTHORITY

	EVATION							
COLLECTOR DATE DRILLED								
					THIC	KNESS	<b>DEPTH</b>	
No.		STRATA			FEET	In.	FEET	In.
1								
2								
3								
4	Centralia	Coal C	o's NI	lines				
5								P. In
6	coalupto	6' 1"						
7	sulphur	14"						
8	coal	8, "						
9	coal upto sulphur Coal sulphur Coal Sulphur Coal Blueband Coal	4						
10	coal	19"						1-1
11	Julphur	98111						1
13	Coal	1/2			1 / / 1			
14	Mueband	12"						
15	Coal	IZ I						
16	Coal	12						
17								1-1
18								
19								
20						1		1
21								
22							Wind a la	
23								
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								
31								
32							1 1 1 20	
33							01	25N 25%
34			TOTAL S				104	经物



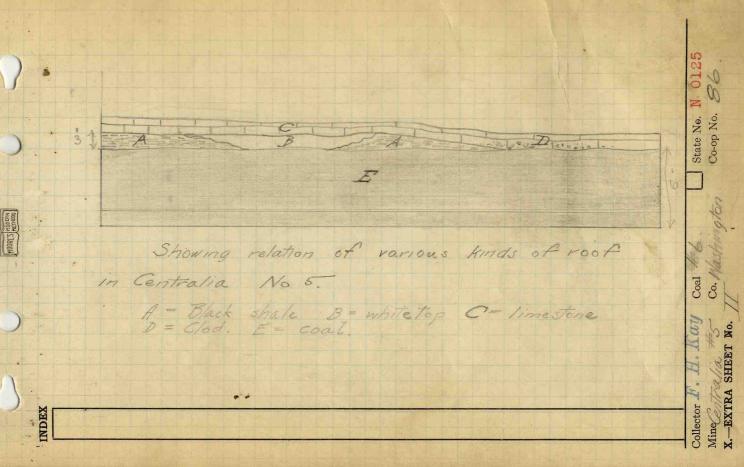
COAL MINING INVESTIGATIONS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT	
Mine Name or No., 5	D I (A)
21/2 miles 5 from Centralia	R.   W
Operator, 1912	T. Sec.
Centralia Coal Co.	
Operator, 191 Pit Boss - Hoye	N
	R. R. Z. C.
Entrance, Shaft Elev., 497? ft. {above, below,	CD. +Q.
Depth to bottom coal, 526 ft. Alt. Surface Data.	
A. Topography Level.	See
B. Surficial materials, (1) Character Clay	
(2) Thickness, 18 Av. (3) Effect on mining and	shaft-sinking, of forme
desirans lines, undergound motor starts etc.	
No trouble. Shaft is only in mine. Sump is but 6 Surface H20 used in sprink!	wel place
Surface H20 used in sprinkl	ina:
	~
	Se
C. Outerops, (1) Character,	See
(2) Structure, (3) Fossil horizons	See See
Collection No.,	
(4) Evidences of subsidence,	See
D. Note collection of mine maps, drill records and shaft logs.	
Said to be in Survey o	TTICE.
C. Auti	ecord sheet.
E. Notes on surrounding area,	ccord sheet.
Cleat 5.60°W N.40°V Most of fracturing extends	W 50
that roof falls on N-S. entri	62
Rooms are run E-W.	
	See
Coal bed name: Local, #6 Survey	Telephone I I
	NO125
Mine, Centralia C.C. #5 Co. Warding Co-op. No.	
L.—SURFACE SHEET (Geol.)	

M.—UNDERGROUND SHEET (Geol.)

Collector, F. H. Kay Coal #6 State No. NO125
Mine Centralia #5 Co. Mashington Co-op. No. 86
N.—UNDERGROUND SHEET (Geol.)

INDEX The top coal is mostly glance and is extremely brittle . Breaks into small pieces resembling pitch Donot note the checked appearance of Herrin district. J Beneath the line stone caprock this mine shows three different materials, black shale, gray shale and a calc siliceous shale - (bastard" of the miner.)

Gray shale in proportion of 1:10. when compared to black. "White top" replaces black over The of mine and reaches 4-5 ft thickness Coalis purer + better under white top. In places limestone rests on Loal, but usually just beneath Ims. comes the hard, sandy calc. rock - "bastard". Top of entry. In driving entry, when shale disappears, this vimpure sandy lime stone bastard" forms roof for some distance before real line stone is Collector F.H.Kay # 5. Co. Washington State No. NO125 Co-op No. 86



3-45 Moon 20, Limestone rout. White Span Bone. glance + dull Finely laminated Dirt near La Hom White span Streaks 1/4 1/2 Blueband Fairly Clean. Brown streak Centralia # 5 Washington N 0125

MOORES MODERN METHODS

#### COAL MINING INVESTIGATION

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Operator, Centralia Goal Co Date, 6-28 - 1912

Mine #5 Located Zimiles\* S comt Centralia

Location in mine, Room #20 off 3 d 50 oth

Total (vertical) depth from surface at point of sampling, 550 ft.

In describing the beds and character of the members, note any member that is rejected by the miner. Note all clay and sulphur partings, whatever their thickness. Exclude from sample all clay and sulphur partings \( \frac{3}{3} \) inch thick or over (and even those of less thickness if they are rejected at mine or tipple).

	of less thickne	ess if they are rejected at mine or tipple).		
		SECTION OF BED AT POINT SAMPLED		
	No.	DESCRIPTION	FEET	Inches
	X 1	Poot hard carbonaceous sh	ale -	Lancon
	2	1001 polue time stone (3) a b	000,1	2.4
	×3	Coal-hard-bright-clean.	1	2,2
	4	Done -		2
-		Coal-fairly clean-hard.	3	,5
3	×5	Bone-16/ve band)		1/2 100
	6	Calacien		3
	×7	Bone - 16 lue 6 and)	FIRM	5 1
100	75 8	Cul Clean	1	1/2
À	5 × 9	coal-creary		
1	10	Floor-fire clay.		
	11			
	12	sample.		
	13	Sample include		20
		- COOR		00
	14	OP Coal		
	15	r - 0a1		
	16	coal has been express		
	17	Jours - mine not	/	11
	wor	Ting tace wascut, TOTAL,	6	2
	Is coal wet or	rdry? Dry- "170 dee	ply	
	Time exposed		7	
	Taillian In the late of the la			minutes.
		gross,	1	net.
le.	What are the	impurities, and how do they occur?	nur as,	PYTITE
1		ehorstreaks-bone inh		TSC:12 PA
	What are shi	pped: 6,7,0,8	+ Caso	* Octally
	What are exc	luded from the sample? 1, 3, 5, 7, 9	-	
		Coal be	ed, # 6	
			railway static	on.
	Town ()	ntralia Mine, #5	Centy	alia
			Co. Coa	1 CO.
	Sample No.	06 A Can No. 57. D. 42	No. 8	0125

Sampler. Nebels Smith.

I.—COAL SAMPLE SHEET.

#### COAL MINING INVESTIGATION

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Co Date, 6-28 , 191 Located 2 Location in mine, Too m = 1 Total (vertical) depth from surface at point of sampling,

In describing the beds and character of the members, nothing member that is rejected by the miner. Note all clay and sulphur partings, whatever their thickness. Exclude from sample all clay and sulphur partings 3 inch thick or over (and even those of less thickness if they are rejected at mine or tipple).

SECTION OF BED AT POINT SAMPLED.					
No.	DESCRIPTION.	FEET.	Inches.		
X1,-	Root- topcoal.		100		
2	Cnal-Clean-bright-hard		85		
× 3-	Bone .	6	3/4		
4	Coal-Fairly clean	/	110		
× 5 -	Bone	0	3/4		
6-	Loar Clean	0	94 200		
× 7 - 8 -	Done - Clean-bright	8	22 "		
×9-	Soal Creat Dright	0	2 3 V		
× <sub>10</sub> _	Bone - We Land	0	2 4		
11+	Coal-dirt streaked	0	10		
×12 –	Floor-fireclay		A more		
13	Sample dues not in	ctude			
14	topicoal		+		
15	Coal face had been exp	used,	9 6001		
16 17	three weeks, but adee	6 C U	was		
1/	made. TOTAL,	5	84		
Is coal wet or		Law 7	73/4		
Time exposed	l, Supplied the hours,	0	minutes.		
Weight,	5 5 # gross,		net.		
What are the	impurities, and how do they occur? — 50/ph	ur in,6	andsana		
	reaks - bone edirt strea	KS M	01/20470		
	pped? 2, 4, 6, 8, 1/.	12			
What are exc	luded from the sample? 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, Coal be	176			
	*Direction (N., NE., etc.). †Nearest rai		on.		
Town, Centralia Mine, #5 Co. Centralia					
Sample No BbC. Can b. StD. S.No. 86-					
	AMPLE SHEET. Sampler.		N 0125		
#50	, DMITH	Neb	1 to formation		
774-4	+3/4=63 Washington				

Pyrite Geological occurrence 1. Manner: As lenses and occasionally as balls on blue band and 3" above 6 6nd, 10" above 61 bnd , at parting between upper + made bench and a little in fireclay at base of coal. 1. Size of masses: Up to 3" thick + 24" t mde. Pare at the size Thuckones narrow; thin ones broad commonly 1, -3/x-1 thick 8-12" horizontally. Sulphur in blue band not very clean or easy to separate Other streaks purer . cleanor. esp. sheak 3" or so above blue band. 3. Measurements: 1 2 3 4 5 Total R3
CPCPCPCPCPCoal Ryrite %P Location in mine 84 /2 81 1 82 /2 81 0 80 1 1 R.6, 5N off S. W. 2 R3 5N off S. W. 660 802 80 12 80 1 800 3 9 5N " " " 80 1/8 80 1/8 4 Face 5N " 80 1 80 0 80 1/2 5 TP.9 GN " 80 (4 Coal 6 R7 " " 80 14 7 P6 " " 80 1/4 8 R4 " " 9 R1 " " 80 1/2 44 4/ 80 4/4 14 11 80 4/4 84 84 4. Noles: #1. SinBlbd. - Pieces thrown out < 1/4 Pyrite, #3 Py. streak abt 4" above 1816 15-14 aver 14. also 16 at top Middle bench. Refuse 50% Pyrite: well cleaned. "4. Inroom \*12 get several nodules moval above BI 6d. Somerooms get 40-50lbs aday See X-1 Label No Location in mine | analyses, etc Prom 5.6 N+S off SW. C18-34 C18-35 From 8N+S+9N off-NE 6 Notes C18-34 Pyrite from lenses C17-35 Collector G.H. Cady July 5, 1918 Coal No6 Co: Centralia Coal Co Mine: Nos Index No No 12: Pyrite sheet (1) Washington Co.



7 Method of rejection of pyrite: (1) Inmine: Bl. band + all pyrite supposed to be rejected (2) Percent rejected. Total rejected including blue band Asciphur = probabij 4" - About 5% of coal
(3) At tipple: Rejected alcars by cleaners. 8. Percent rejected - Less than 1% - small amount probably not much over 1/10 of total rejected material but much picked out fairly clean could be easily saved. 9 Possible daily production of pyrite. Possibly about aver 20 her miner. (aver damable hyrite = 1/4) perday - & about 350 miners : Between 2 and 3 tons daily to 10 tons 10 Conditions against recovery Pyr. in blue band not very clean: would lower slandard If included: also amount rather small to bother with 11. Possibility of foliare production: Fair depends largely on med Mine would gladly cooperate if there was need. 12 Pyvite evercleaned & shipped No

13. Washery

ry No.

Collector: G.H. Cady July 5, 1918 Coal No. 6
Co. Centralia Coal Co
Mine No 5

Pyrite sheet (2) Washington Co. Index No N 0125

4. Notes. #5. In this room man thinks makes at leas! 10 lbs sulphur daily #6 Band of pyrate 2"above blueband. Minersays more than 100 somedays \*9. Sulphur at parting 3" abone blue band \*10 Lens mother coal 8ft x 6" rather sulphury not meluded in estimate Measurements Loc. in mine CPCPCPCPCPCOal Byr. 1 11 Toom 2, 53-SW 80 1/2 1/8 1/2 Aver 80 /4 0 Aver 80 4 1/4 4 13 80 6 Face 16 Poom 12 65-SW 9 " 17 18 19 20 NE 77471772770 21 Troom 8 8N aves 22 10 23 amer 11 24 aues aun 2) 15 26 asses 18 aren 27 ann 28 20 Face Stub off 9N July 5 1918 Coal No6 Co. Centraha Coul G. Nos

Pyrite X-1 Washington Co. Index No Noize

A Notes: control. Band pyr. 3-3/4" above bl. bnd Over 1/4-1/2 Possibly 1/4" for thur room - over Less than in Sw Miner says at least 501bs easy (Prob. 28) 22 23 Well picked refuse Pyrite = 1/- ± Some pyr. butaver. less than 1/4" Few pyr. balls 1 12 Band above bl bd about & room. gel 2" or loss Minerssay aver sulplum = 200 (possibly 50) aver pyr many about 100th 19 Very little probless than 10 16 3: Collector Cady Co. Centralia Coal Co July 5-1918 Coal No6 Pyrite X-2 Washington Co Index No NO12! Copyright 1997

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1997

(6)

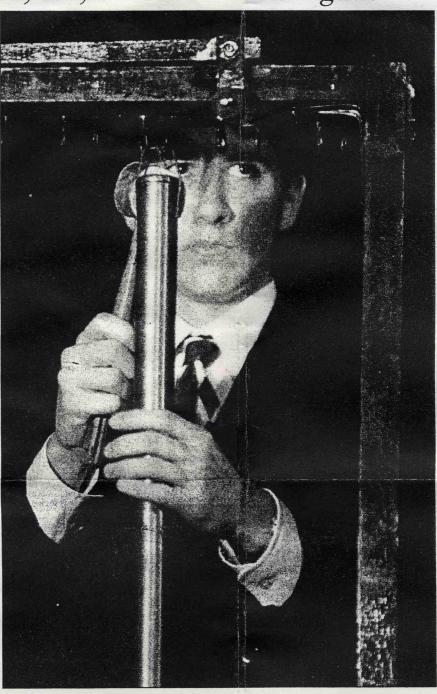
## Fran: St. Louis Post Disportele

### In Centralia, Ill., The Tears Flow Again



"I don't really remember the explosion. I have a few vague recollections of things I think happened."

Joe Vancil, the only person still alive from a blast 50 years ago that killed 111.



Wendi Fitzgerald/Post-Dispatch

CENTRALIA, III.

N MARCH 25, 1947, an explosion ripped through the No. 5 coal mine.

On Sunday, 50 years later, Brandon Hatfield, a percussionist with the Centralia Philharmonic Orchestra, rang the bells 111 times — once in memory of each of the men who died in the blast.

Hatfield was one of nearly 800 people who joined Joe

Vancil, 70, the last living survivor of the deadly explosion, in a ceremony a mile from the site.

Paul McCormick was a member of the state mine rescue team that pulled Vancil from the mine. On Sunday, rescuer and rescued met for the first time in 50 years.

"He was skinned up. He really didn't know where he was," McCormick said after the emotional reunion.

Story, Page 3A

FOCUS ON: 1947 MINE EXPLOSION IN CENTRALIA, ILL.

'I've Tried To Bury It So Often. . . . It Is Almost Impossible To Get Over It'

# Crowd Commemorates 111 Miners Who Died

By Patrick E. Gauen Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

CENTRALIA, III.

INISTERS PRAYED and musicians played Sunday on the stage of Centralia High School.

But the star of the mournful commemoration of the community's deadly 1947 coal mine disaster sat quiet and damp-eyed in the auditorium's fourth row.

Joe Vancil, 70, got a standing ovation as the only person still alive who survived a blast 50 years ago tomorrow that killed 111 men.

In a strange twist for a day dedicated to remembrance, Vancil told how he first learned what happened through a newspaper he found lying on his hospital bed when he woke up days later.

"I don't really remember the explosion," he explained, his voice then failing as he fought for composure. "I

Some trapped

miners lived

several hours,

families. Folk

scratching fare-

well notes to their

composer Woody

**Guthrie immor-**

agony in a song.

talized their

have a few vague recollections of things I think happened."

What, in fact, happened was that some miners used coal dust instead of clay to tamp explosives into place to blast the end of a tunnel. The illegal but then fairly common practice triggered a dust explosion that immediately burned 65 men to death,

leaving toxic fumes to suffocate 46

Vancil was told later that he lay unconscious for more than six hours and was initially passed over by rescuers who presumed him asphyxiated. A fortuitous gasp attracted

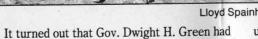
He was revived and sent home before his strange behavior alerted loved ones that carbon monoxide fumes had stolen his memory. He had the idea that his sore chin was from being socked

Vancil's senses eventually returned at the hospital, where he saw in the newspaper that his father and two of his uncles were among the lost.

It took 51/2 minutes for David Felts, one of Sunday's program participants, to read all the names of the dead, with a pause between each for a light tap on a bell.

Ruth Bude's father was on the list. She said Sunday that she almost didn't attend the service.

"I've tried to bury it so often," she explained. "It was such a shock. And it lasted so long, it is almost impossible to get over it. But some people told me I should come today because it would



safety problems at No. 5. The blast came 55 weeks later, killing three of them.

A state mine inspector said his boss had refused to act on his complaints that unsafe levels of coal dust in No. 5 threatened an explosion.

ignored a letter from four miners complaining of

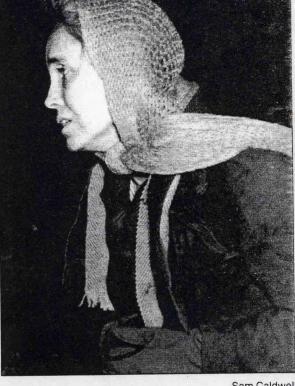
After the disaster, that boss was gone in five days. Green was ousted at the next election, partly because of reporting by the Post-Dispatch that won a Pulitzer Prize.

The Centralia Coal Co. pleaded "no contest" to two misdemeanor charges and paid the maximum fine of \$1,000.

"It's sad that it takes a disaster to get the laws passed to prevent another disaster," Michael E. Bunton, District 12 secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, told the gathering Sunday.

State Rep. Kurt Granberg, D-Carlyle, followed him with a warning that labor is still struggling: "Fifty years ago, 111 good working people gave up their lives to corporate greed. It continues today."

In an interview, he said contemporary victims



Sam Caldwell

ABOVE: An award-winning photo titled "Anxious" depicts the mood at the scene of the mine disaster 50 years ago near Centralia. LEFT: Rescue workers gathered to try to reach men trapped in the mine after the blast.

Lloyd Spainhower

usually sacrifice in pay and jobs - not with their lives.

Granberg wants to see a memorial put at the site of the mine entrance, now forgotten in the clutter of an industrial park in Wamac, a small town at the southern edge of Centralia.

About 800 people refused to forget what happened there, assembling for Sunday afternoon's program and singing the same hymns some of them sang at another sad Palm Sunday gathering at the school 50 years before. Eight of the miners' 98 widows attended the 1997 service.

For Vancil, the lone mine survivor, there was a lingering sadness for both what he could remember and what he could not.

He said he went back to No. 5, working topside for months until he persuaded his bosses to let him return to the reopened pit. "I went back to the place where I had been, hoping to remember what happened," he explained. "But I didn't."

The mine closed for good two years later. Vancil went into construction work, often at mine sites, but never ventured deep into the earth again.

be an honor to my dad."

She was in her first year of teaching at Centralia High School - the site of Sunday's service — when the disaster occurred in Centralia Coal Co. No. 5.

Bude, then 23, returned home to find her mother on the phone. "She was half crying and half in shock. She said there had been an explosion, and it looked bad," the daughter recalled.

It would be five days before rescue workers recovered the body of Edward Bude, 53, and removed the last glimmer of hope from his wife and only child.

Some trapped miners lived several hours before dying, scratching farewell notes to their families. Folk composer Woody Guthrie immortalized their agony in a song, "The Dying Miner," performed Sunday by the Centralia Cultural Society Chorus.

It ends with a plea to the young to "fix up these mines so the fires won't kill daddies no

There was plenty of fixing to do. At the time, U.S. coal mines were killing more than 1.000 workers every year. The explosion at No. 5 helped galvanize attention to safety.

MOORE'S MODERN METHODS

#### COAL MINING INVESTIGATION

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

	COOPERATIVE	AGREEMENT		and the second second	
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Min., # 5	alas de se	miles* 5	from † C	entrai	12
Location in mine, Face		1 to	FIN	arth.	
Total (vertical) depth from	surface at poin	t sampling,	5-50	ft.	

In describing the beas and character of the members, note any member that is rejected by the miner. Note all clay and sulphur partings, whatever their thickness. Exclude from sample all clay and sulphur partings  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch thick or over (and even those of less thickness if they are rejected at mine or tipple).

SECTION OF BED AT POINT SAMPLED

	SECTION OF BED AT POINT SAMP	LED	
No.	DESCRIPTION	FEET	INCHES
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×3	Coal-bright-hard-clean Bone-blueband	1	5/2
4	Coal-dirt streated	1	10
5			
6			
7 8	Floor-Fire clay		
9	1100		,
10	Sample includes To	op Coa,	
11	Food - 1		75
12	Face has beenex po	sea ab	00,3
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