

SAFETY FIRST -- 5,000 LIVES SAVED

PHOTOS BY U.S. BUREAU OF MINES

U.S. BUREAU OF MINES



THE new laboratories of the interior department's bureau of mines at Pittsburgh, costing more than a million dollars, were dedicated recently with appropriate ceremonies in which the mining and metallurgical industries of the country took part. The program of three days was arranged by the bureau of mines in co-operation with the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce.

One of the biggest features of these ceremonies was the nation-wide first-aid and mine-rescue contest held during the last two days. About 100 teams from the coal and metal-mining companies throughout the country entered the lists. The last day there was a holiday for the miners of the Pittsburgh district and thousands witnessed the awarding of the prizes to the winners.

In addition to the usual prizes for these contests, the Joseph A. Holmes Safety association, an organization created in 1916 in honor of the memory of the first director for the purpose of giving recognition to persons who had performed meritorious and heroic deeds in the saving of human life in the mining and metallurgical industry, or who had developed some safety appliance to further the saving of life in those industries, made its first awards. Dr. Van H. Manning, president of the association, announced the list of recipients of diplomas and medals and recited the deeds for which they were presented. The committee on awards had recommended that 12 gold medals be awarded, all for heroic deeds performed by miners in coal and metal mines in efforts to save the lives of fellow workmen.

Speaking of the accident conditions generally in the mining industries and of the outlook, Dr. Van H. Manning, director of the bureau of mines, says:

"I am often asked, 'What has the bureau of mines accomplished in saving of human life in the mines?' It is difficult to say, as there are so many varying factors involved. I may say, however, that if you consider the prevailing average death rate in the mines for a period of years before the federal government took up this work and compare it with the average fatality rate since the bureau was created, you will find that 5,000 less miners have been killed. In other words, had the old fatality rate been maintained through the last few years 5,000 more men would have lost their lives. It must also be remembered that the situation was gradually becoming worse, and who knows that there might not have been 7,000 or 8,000 lives lost? We also have to take into consideration that, thanks to the many improvements in life-saving methods and the greater understandings of the causes of accidents, this saving of 5,000 human beings will be increased as the years roll on until we can show several times 5,000 lives saved.

"It is indeed a glorious record of human progress. Five thousand lives saved! Perhaps 2,000 less widows! At least 3,000 children who still have fathers. Take away all the other manifold duties of the bureau of mines and this one accomplishment is worthy of all its costs to the government since its establishment and for years to come.

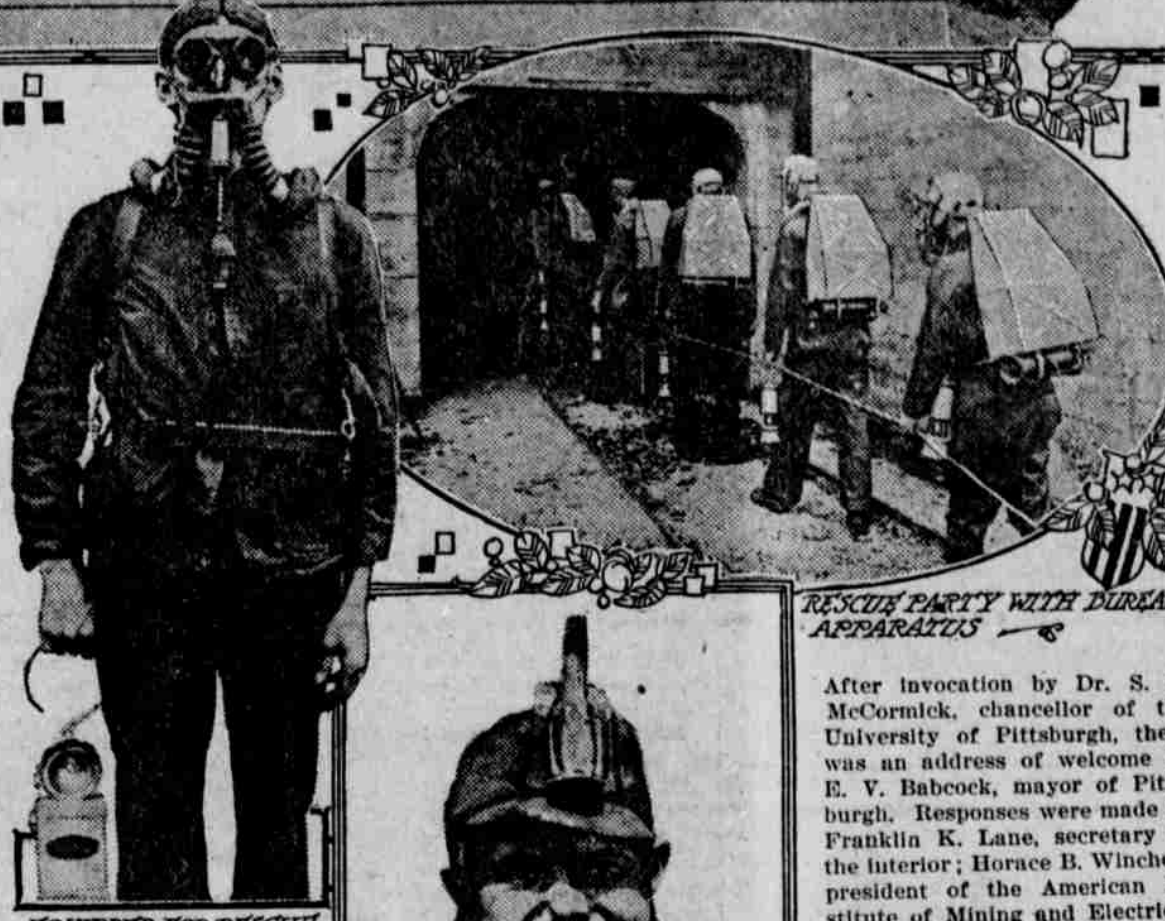
"I do not mean that the bureau of mines deserves all the credit. It was, however, the agency that picked up the isolated, sporadic efforts of a few well-meaning men and companies and welded them into a great national movement for greater safety in the mines. It at once gained the co-operation of the miners, the mine operators, the state mine inspectors and others, and without these the bureau of mines would have been almost helpless.

"It was in 1911 that the bureau held under its auspices a great national first-aid and mine-rescue meet at Pittsburgh, which was attended by 22,000 miners. The slogan of that meet was 'safety first,' and that was the time that the slogan, since internationally famous, first became a national battle cry for this humanitarian movement. Not only was 'safety first' immediately adopted by the mining companies, but it was also taken up by the railroads and by industrial plants of the country. Safety organizations appeared everywhere. Determined campaigns were fought to reduce the number of deaths and injuries. In quite a number of mills and factories and railroads there was a reduction in the fatalities of more than 50 per cent. Further improvement was slower, but the original gains were made and added to.

"Just how many thousands of lives were saved may never be known, for there are no statistics that adequately cover industrial accidents, but we do know that the bureau of mines and its associated agencies started a movement that not only spread throughout the entire United States, but it also reached the other countries of the world with an equally good effect. And it all started with the modest mine safety meet we held in Pittsburgh in 1911.

"Since that time the bureau has gone its way, improving its methods, interesting the miner in his own safety and that of his fellow man; doing what it could to point out to the owners of the mines the dangerous places that could be avoided and making recommendations as the result of its experiments looking toward still greater safety.

"Today the bureau of mines maintains in every mining field of the country a mine rescue car, fully equipped with modern life-saving apparatus, that responds to disasters and assists in the rescue work. In the meanwhile it visits the mines in its district and gives the miners training in both mine rescue and first aid to the injured. As a result there are several thousand miners throughout the country who are expert in the use of the oxy-



EQUIPPED FOR RESCUE

gen mine rescue apparatus and who are familiar with the most modern methods of life saving. Besides, more than 50,000 miners understand first-aid to the injured work as well as a regular hospital corps. All of these men have been trained by the bureau of mines.

"Happily, great mine disasters have been becoming fewer and fewer as the men come to a better understanding of the causes. Nevertheless they do happen, and one thing that the bureau has preached is that upon such a visitation there shall be a more orderly and systematic method of rescue work, for it has been demonstrated that life can be saved in devious ways. The bureau has endeavored to tell the miners that in a great catastrophe it is often better for entombed miners to barricade themselves in, keeping the poisonous gases out of their working place and waiting for relief. In this manner 42 men entombed in a mine for four days were recently rescued, the men even being able to walk out of the mine.

"We are not content to rest on the progress made. There are now more than a million miners in the United States, and each year more than 3,000 are killed in accidents and a quarter of a million injured. Taking the cold, business calculation of the state compensation commissions and eliminating the suffering and sorrow of 3,000 killed each year, the economic loss from these fatalities alone is \$12,000,000 a year, for these commissions are paying an average of \$4,000 for every life lost. This is a terrible toll for one industry to pay each year. It is hard for us to realize that out of every mining camp of 1,000 men, three of them are sure to lose their lives within 12 months.

"Mining will always be an extra hazardous business. But the question is, 'Have we reached the irreducible minimum?' No, I think not. It is my belief that we can cut down the present fatality rates full one-half; that we can save each 1,500 of the 3,000 killed.

"The causes of these fatal accidents are much better known. Operators and miners are giving much more thought to the dangers of the mines, and the wide-awake among them have installed more modern safety devices. Through the experimental mine of the bureau mining men and miners both have a keener understanding of the dangers of coal dust and have learned how to combat them.

"In the mining industry a human life is much more valuable than ever before, and I believe that can be said of all the industries. This is seen in the great advances in safety work, the millions of dollars spent in safety devices and the humanitarian work of the different state compensation commissions. The day of the ambulance chaser and those ghouls that preyed upon the widow beset with grief over the loss of her husband have happily passed away. The state now steps in and sees that the widow and the orphan are protected, and that alone is worth all the fight that we have endeavored to make. I do not say that the bureau of mines is responsible for these state compensations, but I do know that these commissions came after the mining industry started its great human-saving drive and that the disclosures of the conditions in mining furnished the states with facts that favored the establishment of these commissions.

"Cut the mine fatalities in half." The dedication ceremonies brought to Pittsburgh for the three days the most prominent mining and metallurgical men of the nation, not alone those interested in the safety-first movement, but also those connected with the allied industries that use the products of the mines.

The bureau of mines, in co-operation with the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce, arranged an elaborate program of events calling for the presence of high government and state government officials besides the leading men of mining throughout the country. The first morning the new laboratories at 4800 Forbes street were dedicated, Dr. Van H. Manning, director of the bureau, presiding.



RESCUE PARTY WITH BUREAU APPARATUS

After invocation by Dr. S. B. McCormick, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, there was an address of welcome by E. V. Babcock, mayor of Pittsburgh. Responses were made by Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Horace B. Winchell, president of the American Institute of Mining and Electrical Engineers; John L. Lewis, acting president of the United Mine Workers of America, and William C. Sproul, governor of Pennsylvania. The formal ceremony of handing over the keys of the building by Secretary Lane to Director Manning followed.

After luncheon at the bureau of mines buildings the guests boarded special trains to the experimental mine of the bureau of mines at Bruceton, Pa., 14 miles from Pittsburgh. Upon arrival there a prearranged explosion of coal dust took place in the experimental mine as a demonstration to the visitors, and after that there was an inspection of the mine and the explosives-testing plant, the guests returning to the city at 6 o'clock in the evening. At 8 o'clock there was a general meeting at Carnegie Music hall under the auspices of the Pittsburgh chamber of commerce, with an address by Secretary Lane and an organ recital by Dr. Charles Heinroth. A moving picture prepared by the National Coal association, "The Story of Coal," was given a first presentation.

The second day the new laboratories were open for inspection by the guests the entire day, and at 2 o'clock the elimination contests in the National Safety First-Aid and Mine-Rescue meet were held at Forbes field; also the awarding of the state championships. At 5 o'clock, at Forbes field, there was a demonstration of the explosibility of coal dust and at 8 o'clock the chamber of commerce presented a pageant typifying the spirit of the mining industry, with music by the band of the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

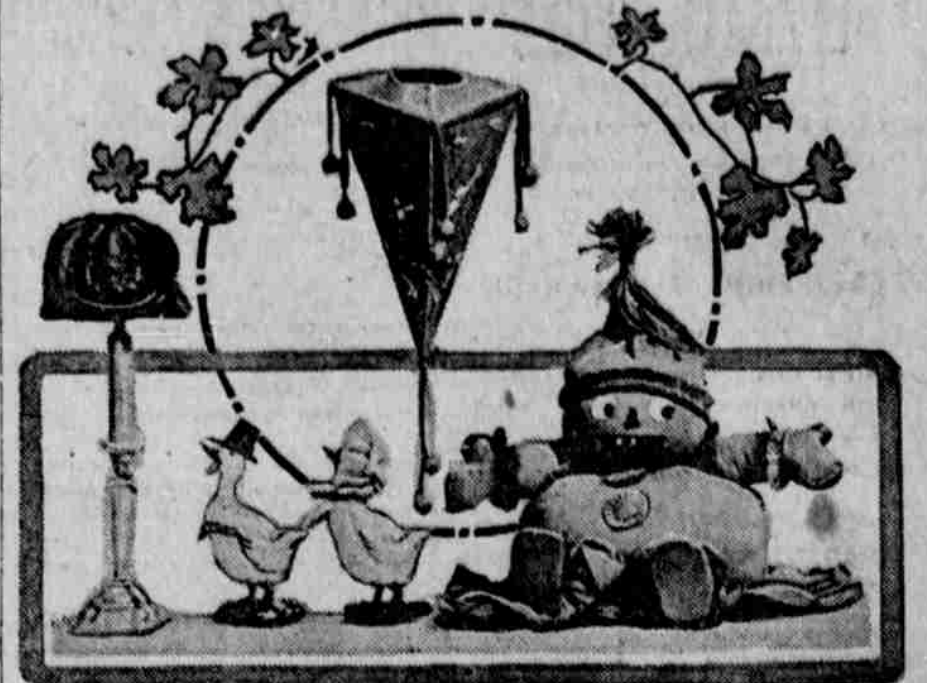
The third day at 9 a. m. there was a final mine-rescue contest by the ten successful teams of the previous day at Forbes field, with a presentation of the national cups and prizes. At 2 p. m. announcement of the J. A. Holmes Safety association was made by Dr. Van H. Manning. At 2:30 o'clock the final first-aid contest, participated in by the 20 best teams of the previous day, was held. At 5 o'clock there was a demonstration of a coal-dust explosion at Forbes field, the events closing with a smoker at the chamber of commerce in which prizes were awarded and speeches made.

The honorary committee in charge of the dedication of the Pittsburgh station included: George S. Oliver, president Pittsburgh chamber of commerce; John F. Herron, president city council of Pittsburgh; Harry N. Taylor, president National Coal Operators' association; John L. Lewis, acting president United Mine Workers of America; Horace B. Winchell, president American Institute of Mining and Electrical Engineers; Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Dr. Van H. Manning, director bureau of mines; Dr. S. B. McCormick, chancellor University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Arthur A. Hammerschlag, president Carnegie Institute of Technology; Dr. S. W. Stratton, director bureau of standards; Dr. R. F. Bacon, director Mellon institute; Seward E. Button, chief department of mines, state of Pennsylvania; Dr. D. Van Schnack, president of the National Safety council; T. A. O'Donnell, president American Petroleum institute; Mortimer E. Cooley, president American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Fayette S. Curtis, president American Society of Civil Engineers; J. A. Capp, president American Society of Testing Materials; Dr. William H. Nichols, president American Chemical society; Calvert Townley, president American Society Electrical Engineers; G. H. Neilson, president Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania; Dr. W. D. Bancroft, president American Electro-Chemical society; R. T. Zell, president American Ceramics society; E. N. Stull, president Coal Mining Institute of America; James A. Angell, chairman National Research council.

Home Helpfulness.

"I am tempted," said Mr. Meekton, "to give Henrietta a moving picture machine for Christmas." "Is she to lecture?" "Not in public. But I had an idea that maybe some of those long talks she has given me would be more interesting if they were illustrated."

Now Comes Halloween



So many preparations are under way for Halloween parties that there is no doubt that a lot of merry-making is coming to pass this year upon the return of the festival of "all saints' day." The big shops are showing all sorts of grotesque, funny and pretty decorations, made of paper—in the way of adornments for house and table, and people are buying them freely.

A gay party at home is the best way to celebrate and is evidently taking the place of pranks that lure the youngsters into doing dangerous and damaging things on the outside.

Yellow and black are the colors for Halloween decorations and lanterns, candle shades, jack-o-lanterns, table and house garnishings are all done in these colors, with yellow in a dark shade predominating. Plain crepe paper, in bolts and fringed strips, is used for a great number of Halloween figures and there are many printed papers containing figures in black as witches, ghosts, jack-o-lanterns and innumerable black cats in all sizes. These are cut out and pasted against thin cardboard for place cards, candle shades, banners and wall decorations. They are used to dress tables instead of linen, and there are paper napkins to keep.

Instead of the usual genuine pumpkin, jack-o-lanterns are made over a big wire frame of plain yellow paper and a face painted on with black and white water colors. Or the face may be cut from printed paper and pasted on the lantern. This is suspended over the dining table and similar lanterns are hung in other rooms or the hall. The fringed strips of paper are used for festoons and these paper decorations are improved if autumn leaves are used with them.

In the picture above there are some clever table decorations. They are merely suggestions and do not include cats, bats, ghosts and witches that may be had in large or small sizes on the printed bolts of paper and used for lanterns, place cards, candle shades, etc. The jack-o-lantern at the right of the picture is made of yellow and black crepe paper. His location in the scheme of things is in the center of the table where refreshments are to be served. Here he is mounted on a low pasteboard box, either square or round, covered with crepe paper and containing paper caps or small, mirth-provoking souvenirs. These are distributed to the guests when they are seated.

The lantern at the center is made of printed crepe paper and is to be used over electric lights. It is adorned with short, narrow strips of crepe paper, each ending in a little ball of paper stuffed with cotton. Below the lanterns are two place cards cut from printed paper, mounted on thin cardboard and fastened to small disks of cardboard in which the guests' names are written. The last figure at the left shows a candle shade made of printed crepe paper mounted over a frame of wire or cardboard.

There is nothing formal about the Halloween party—it is a frolic. Games and pastimes for the evening are to be planned ahead—the merrier the better. Nothing suits the grown-up young people better than dancing and fortune telling and there are plenty of thrilling and romping games for the youngsters. It is a paper festival, and paper dishes, paper table furnishings and paper decorations, make things easy and inexpensive for the hostess.

Blouses for All Occasions



The materials used for blouses this fall are the same that have made them so successful for several seasons, the only new departures being velvet and the increased number of models made of crepe-de-chine.

In styles the most prominent new note is the over-blouse or over-panel. That is, a blouse in one color or material serves as a foundation for an over-blouse or over panel in a contrasting color or material. This makes opportunity for many beautiful color combinations. Another feature to be noted lies in girdles, which appear in gold and silver brocaded ribbons or in other brocades. These are used with blouses that are extended into pelerines, or long panels at the back and front.

For trimming, flet lace, bead and embroidery designs, with yarn embroidery featured in velvet, small tucks and considerable hand work, distinguish the season. Silk and gold or silver threads are combined in embroideries, in keeping with the trend toward brilliant effects in all apparel. For afternoon wear with satin skirts

crepe-de-chine in fashionable colors and adorned with pointed figures is shown in the skirted blouses. These are simply made and usually have girdles of heavy silk cord ending in long tassels. Sleeves are about equally divided as to length.

In the plain tailored blouses high necks with turn-over collars fasten up the front, including the collar with small buttons. Round necks and those with "v" shaped openings continue to be better liked than others, but in some of the new models are higher than in the past season. The blouse of georgette crepe shown in the picture represents the most popular type. It is embroidered in silk matching it in color, with outlined grape leaves and clusters of small grapes. The sleeves are long, but the designer appears to have been of two minds in finishing them, and has added a flaring portion that might be omitted.

Julia Bottomley