DECEMBER 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

E PLURIBUS UNUM

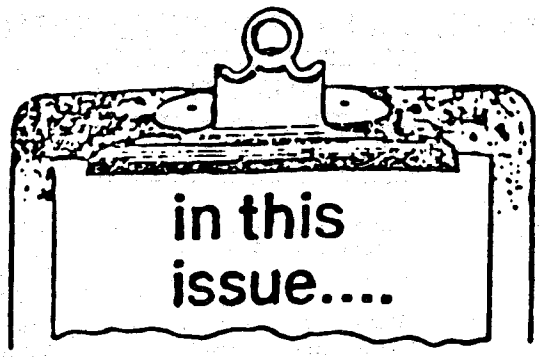
SAFETY EFFICIENCY

MINERAL INDUSTRIES

BULLETIN

BE ACCIDENT FREE IN "83"

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION



December 1983

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

Canyon Sand & Gravel, Inc.
Canyon Sand & Gravel
Puyallup, Washington

Top Job Coal Company
Top Job No. 2
Baisden, WV

Kristie Ann Coal Co.
Kristie Ann No. 3
Baisden, WV

Asamera Minerals, Inc.
Asamera Minerals
Wenatchee, Washington

National Cement Co.
National Cement
Ragland, Alabama

Ken-Cole Coal Corp.
Ken-Cole Coal
Elkhorn City, Kentucky

M & M Extracting Inc.
M & M Extracting No. 3
Dema, Kentucky

M I Coal Company
M I Coal
Martin, Kentucky

Queen Coal Company
Queen Coal
Martin, Kentucky

DMV Mining Company
DMV Mining No. 1
Paintsville, Kentucky

Macarthy & Reichner, Inc.
Aspen
Pittsburgh, PA

Travis Coal Company
Travis Coal
Richlands, Virginia

Kensee Mining Company
Kensee Mining
Williamsburg, KY

L and E Coal Company
L and E Coal No. 1
Pounding Mill, VA

P V Mining Company
P V Mining
Huntingburg, Indiana

Blackfoot Inc.
Blackfoot
Standal, Indiana

Kentucky Harlan Coal Co.
Kentucky Harlan Coal
Coldiron, Kentucky

Abbott Coal & Energy
Abbott Coal & Energy
Huntingburg, Indiana

State Line Mining Inc.
State Line Mining
Bluefield, WV

Woodman Three Mining Co.
Woodman Three Mining
Steele, Kentucky

Brazil Coal & Clay Corp.
Brazil Coal & Clay
Brazil, Indiana

Cimarron Coal Corp.
Cimarron Coal
Mt. Carmet, Illinois

B.F.C. Coal Co.
B.F.C. Coal
Boonville, Indiana

H & H Coal Co.
Freedom No. 1
Beaver Dam, Kentucky

Bryant Mining Co. Inc.
Bryant Mining No. 1 Sur
Rainelle, WV

Kara Coal Co.
Kara Coal No. 2
Gilbert, WV

Terry Eagle Coal Co.
Cross Lanes Eagle #1
Summersville, WV

Blue Hat Coals Inc.
Blue Hat Coals
Gilbert, WV

Master Mining Corp.
Master Mining
Neibert, WV

York Excavating Inc.
Comet Strip
Newberry, Indiana

Murphy Elkhorn Coal Co.
Murphy Elkhorn Coal
Phyllis, Kentucky

Peabody Coal Co.
Star North U/G
Madisonville, KY

Six B Coal Co.
Six B Coal
Grundy, Virginia

Parke Coal Co.
Parke Mine
Petersburg, Indiana

A.L. & L. Mining Inc.
A.L. & L. Mining #1
Grundy, Virginia

Antco Inc.
Antco Surface
Fairmont, WV

C & H Coal Co., Inc.
32-A
Printer, Kentucky

Shannon Coal Co., Inc.
Shannon Coal
McDowell, Kentucky

Associated Mining Inc.
Associated Mining
West Liberty, KY

Relgis Inc.
Relgis
Jodie, WV

Fausett Mine Services
Ropes Gold Mine
Ishpeming, Michigan

ABC Development Co.
ABC Development
Langley, Kentucky

Aggrecon Corp.
Acker-Fulton Quarry
Maquoketa, Iowa

McHenry Sand & Gravel
McHenry Sand & Gravel
McHenry, Illinois

Lake County Grading Inc.
Lake County Pit
Libertyville, IL

Kenellis Energies Inc.
Brushy Creek
Galatia, Illinois

Kerr-McGee Coal Corp.
Galatia
Harrisburg, Illinois

Mississippi Lime Co.
Alton Plant & Mill
Alton, Illinois

R & H Mining Inc.
R & H Mining
Petersburg, Indiana

Rocky Coal Co.
Rocky Coal
St. Paul, Virginia

Sykes & Lambert Coal Co.
Sykes & Lambert No. 1
Lebanon, Virginia

December 1983

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

COUNCIL NEWS

The 17th Annual Ladies' Night Banquet of the Pennsylvania Bituminous Council was held October 15, 1983, at the Rustic Lodge in Indiana, Pennsylvania, with 518 ladies and guests in attendance.

President J. Earl Lamont conducted the awarding of $2,700 in gifts and door prizes donated by contributors to the women.

IUP'ers, a musical group from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, provided the entertainment by performing popular and broadway show tunes.

Don Conrad, safety specialist, Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 2, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, was introduced as the acting secretary-treasurer of the state council until elections are held at the March dinner meeting.

HAVE A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

—

AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

STAY ALERT

Staying alert to the hazards of your particular duty assignment is most necessary regardless of its nature.

Always keeping your mind on your duties will at times be difficult. It is easy to concentrate on your work for short periods of time but over an entire shift, thoughts can wander.

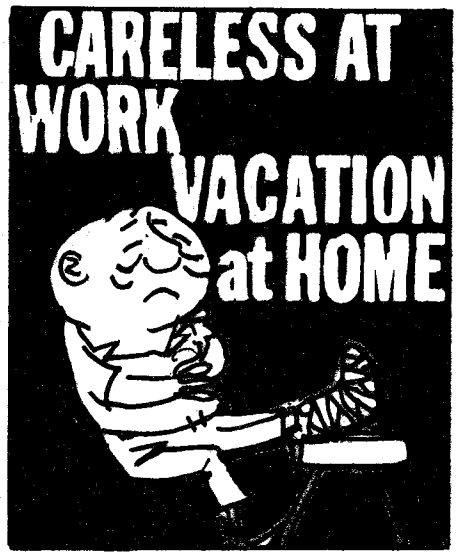
Your thoughts are definitely on the job when you are doing something risky but what about the jobs that may have become routine to you, such as sawing a post, operating your equipment, or examining the roof? Are your thoughts completely centered on the job? If they aren't, you are risking the possibility of an injury.

A shuttle-car operator with 20 years experience was enroute to a dumping point when the car collided with the rib.

Another shuttle-car operator with 12 years experience was also proceeding to a dump point when the car collided with the rib.

The controls of both pieces of equipment were in good operating condition but were the operator's minds on the job?

It is good to have an active and free-roving mind but there is a right time and place for your thoughts to wander. When on your job and in the middle of an activity, your thoughts need to be "locked in" on your duties.



December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

SAFETY...

WASTE DISPOSAL

When the job is done, and after tools, machines, and the usable material are secured, the safe practice is to dispose of waste material. Each type of waste demands its own procedures.

SCRAP METAL, FILINGS AND CHIPS. Every shop dealing with structural metals should have a steel barrel or waste can especially earmarked for metal disposal. Use a whisk broom and pan, taking special care to clean around individual machines. For metal pieces too large to sweep, wear shop gloves.

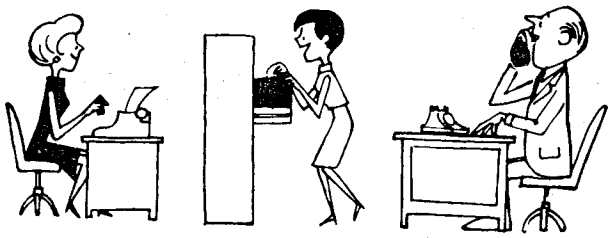
HOT METAL. While welding or cutting metal projects, small pieces may fall to the ground. Using pliers or tongs to put them in water, they should be cooled as soon as possible. If the work must be cooled slowly, mark it with soapstone.

WASTE LIQUIDS. Liquids difficult to dispose of generally fall in three categories: petroleum products (oils and greases), solvents and paint products and cleaning compounds. All these substances should be regarded as hazardous to health. They are also flammable. Since many oils and lubricants can be rerefined, used engine oil and gear lubricant should be placed in a special container and saved for recycling. Never pour oils, solvents, thinners or paints in sewer drains.

SAWDUST. Wood dust is difficult to control in a shop. A shop vacuum system designed for each power machine reduces, but doesn't eliminate, dust. A portable shop vacuum does the most effective job of handling dust, but many clean-up jobs require a broom. A good sweeping compound should be used to trap dust.

SCRAP LUMBER. Any small piece of lumber that possibly could be reused should be put in a trash barrel or scrap bin, first making sure all nails and screws are removed.

-MORE-



...ON THE JOB

OFFICE SAFETY

Although the likelihood of serious injury in the office is much less than in the factory, office workers have their share of accidents, too. To help reduce office accidents, pay particular attention to the following: 1) Avoid slipping or tripping on tracked-in rain and snow, coffee spills, highly waxed floors and loose floor mats; 2) Never use chairs as stepladders and check the tilt-back type for loose casters; 3) Make sure electrical equipment is in proper working order and that cords are well insulated and clear of walkways.

Talk to your supervisor, if necessary, about avoiding these dangers: 1) Don't place office machines where people can bump into corners or projections. Makes sure equipment doesn't extend into aisles, particularly the carriage returns on typewriters; 2) Make sure work areas are well lit, especially stairwells, hallways, basements and storage areas.

...AND OFF THE JOB

INTO THE POOL

Car pooling saves gas and human energy and reduces pollution. But, it also creates hazards because the heavier load puts an additional strain on the car and its engine. You should check your cooling system regularly (belts tight? hoses in good condition? coolant at proper level?); check brakes and hydraulic fluid levels; make sure tires are properly inflated (under-inflation causes heat buildup and tire failure, particularly with a full load); and make sure your suspension system is adequate. Also take care that the driver is not distracted by conversation. A "no smoking" rule is also a good idea as this can be distracting.

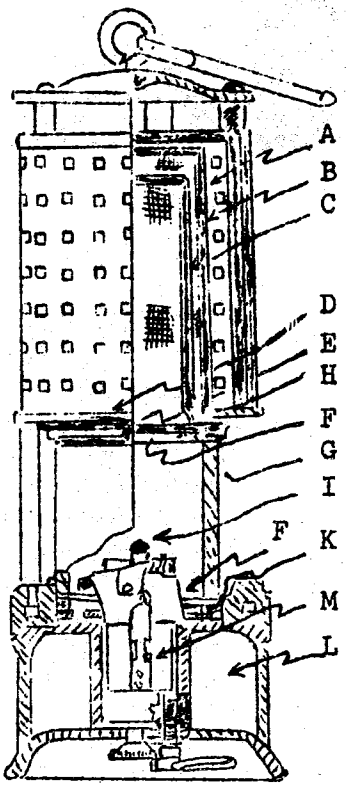
Winter driving poses special hazards. When driving in slippery weather remember the following: always use safety belts; reduce speed; apply brakes with quick pumping action; and slow down well in advance of intersections and curves. If you do skid, pump the brakes gently and keep the front wheels turned into the direction the rear end of the car is sliding; straighten the wheels as soon as the vehicle straightens.

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF FLAME SAFETY LAMPS

WHEN CLEANING AND ASSEMBLING A FLAME SAFETY LAMP, MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL PARTS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION. A SMALL OVERSIGHT MAY COST LIVES. (ALL REMOVABLE PARTS SHOULD BE DETACHED FOR CLEANING)



A--BONNET: Examined for defects and cleaned of soot and dust.

B & C--GAUZES: Cleaned by brushing or blowing; examined for broken wires and enlarged or obstructed holes. (New gauzes should have coating burned off before being used.)

D--EXPANSION RING: Examined for defects and cleaned of soot and dust.

E--GAUZE RING: Examined for defects and cleaned.

F--ASBESTOS GASKETS: Examined and cleaned; Replaced if broken or after becoming hardened after long service.

G--LAMP GLASS: Thoroughly cleaned and examined for defects, such as chipped edges.

H--GASKET RING: Examined for defects and cleaned.

I--WICK: Trimmed if necessary and raising device tested.

K--LOWER GAUZE RING: Cleaned and inspected in a manner similar to that of upper gauzes. (Inspect for "warping")

L--FUEL FONT: Filled to capacity, but not to overflowing.

M--IGNITER: Cleaned and tested.

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

COAL MINER DEATHS DOWN FROM YEAR AGO

WASHINGTON--Although 55 coal miners perished in accidents through September this year, the number of deaths was nearly half the level of the first nine months of last year, the Labor Department stated November 1983. Between January 1 and September 30, 1982, the Mine Safety and Health Administration said, 101 miners died in work-related accidents. The rate for fatal injuries -- 0.04 per 200,000 employee hours -- was just a fraction below the 0.06 during the same period last year. This indicates that heavy layoffs, with fewer people working in and around the mines, might have been a major factor behind the lower death toll. The agency said the coal industry's rate for nonfatal injuries in the first nine months of this year was 6.93 per 200,000 worker hours, a decline from 8.25 in the same period last year.

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The following is the description of the multiple fatal roof fall that occurred on November 14, 1983.

BAD ROOF CLAIMS 2 - WHY?

The accident occurred in a retreating section. A continuous miner had split a pillar in which posts were then set. A slab cut was mined through on the left side fender and the area was posted. The second slab cut had then been mined and the continuous miner was pulled back to permit posting of that area. A vertical wedge shaped piece of roof, 14'6" long by 5'4" wide by 4'5" thick, fell when the victims went into the area to set supporting posts. Both victims were killed instantly.

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

THE NEW WORKER

Every new employee comes into our section, shop, tipple, preparation plant or mine without the full knowledge of all the risks which must be faced. They may be experienced persons but have never worked before in a particular department and, of course, cannot be expected to know all the rules or ways of working. To be sure, it is the supervisor's responsibility to see that everyone is properly trained but regular employees can be of considerable assistance in the training of new and inexperienced people by offering guidance and giving them the benefit of your experience. We were all new employees at one time and were helped and guided by a lot of different people. Each of us can recall the time when we were learning to drive an automobile. A considerable amount of patience, guidance and training was required before we were allowed to "solo."

New employees require time to become accustomed to their work before they are really safe workers. Most new workers want to learn. They come onto the job expecting to be told and shown how to do the job. Their minds are open to new ideas and new knowledge.

The new worker's training must be complete and accurate. The safe way of doing each job and each operation must be shown. Safety must be worked into each step of the operation as a part of the work procedure. An inexperienced and untrained person performing any operation, regardless of its nature, is a menace to themselves and to everyone around. If they have an accident and get hurt, some of us may also be involved. For the sake of our safety, as well as the new worker, we can do nothing less than give assistance and guidance in the safety rules and the hazards involved in the total job.

The instruction given a new worker should be kind and sympathetic in nature and certainly we need to make them feel comfortable and wanted. If we make them feel that we are pulling for them to make good and that we are anxious to help them in every way, the possibilities are that they will respond to all our suggestions in the right spirit and develop into a good, steady, safe worker.

You can see your part in the safety training of a new worker, and, of course, your part is important. While it is the job of the supervisor to start them off in the right direction, they will need your help the rest of the way. Some of you will be working with them. Keep an eye on the new worker, catch things they do wrong and give them a helping hand when needed. To be sure, you will need to practice safety yourself and set a good example for the new worker. By doing all this, you will help the new worker develop an attitude toward safety that will protect them for life and improve your safety performance.

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

WORK PRACTICE GUIDELINES
MISC. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following miscellaneous guidelines are recognized and accepted cyanide use procedures but there are no existing Federal regulations or standards which make these procedures mandatory. They are strongly recommended to mine and mill operators for increasing the efficiency of the operation while at the same time promoting employees' health and safety.

A. NON-RETURNABLE CONTAINERS. All non-returnable cyanide containers should be washed clean or otherwise decontaminated before they are removed from the mixing area. The wash water should be isolated or conducted into the mill or tailings circuit.

EXPLANATION: There is at present no standard which requires the cleaning of non-returnable containers. If these containers are not cleaned, they must be clearly labelled according to 30 CFR 55, 56, 57.20-12. This guideline does not prohibit the conversion of cyanide containers to other uses but operators should be aware of the risks associated with container reuse. Chemical suppliers do not condone the reuse of cyanide salt shipping containers, as residual chemicals may cause contamination.

Safe procedures for the disposal of dry, unused cyanide salts should be obtained from the chemical manufacturer or supplier. It is suggested that unused salts be placed in the original shipping containers and sent either to the manufacturer or another mining company which can use the chemical.

B. EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE. Inspection, cleaning and repairing of tanks and other equipment used for solutions of cyanide salts should be performed under careful supervision by properly trained workers. The following procedures should be observed during these tasks:

1. The tank should be drained of all cyanide solution as completely as possible, filled with alkalinized water and allowed to stand for 15 minutes, preferably with agitation. This procedure should be repeated and then a preliminary inspection may be made. Any encrustation or deposits should be removed.

-MORE-

2. If the tank is to be entered, the atmosphere in the tank should be tested for the presence of hydrogen cyanide and cyanide salts in order to be certain that it does not contain a dangerous airborne concentration of these or other materials.

3. The tank should be flushed with fresh air in order to ensure the presence of an adequate oxygen supply. Air should be supplied to the tank while a worker is in the tank.

4. Equipment other than tanks should be washed and vented similarly as applicable.

5. In the event of finding airborne concentrations of hydrogen cyanide or cyanide salts in excess of the limit, immediate action must be taken to eliminate the cause of the elevated airborne cyanide concentration.

EXPLANATION: The possibility that toxic concentrations of hydrogen cyanide or cyanide salts have collected in a tank or container cannot be discounted. There is at present no standard which requires these specific guidelines. The recommended procedures are simply good, safe work practices that should be followed regardless of the contaminant but they are especially important in the use of cyanide.

C. USE OF WASTES. Liquids, slimes, tailings and other waste materials from cyanide processes used for purposes other than further cyanide processing or final surface tailings disposal should be analyzed for toxic cyanide compounds and free cyanide ion prior to use and periodically during use. The wastes should be treated when necessary to destroy the toxic compounds.

EXPLANATION: These waste materials are sometimes used for mine backfill or other construction purposes and may contain toxic metallic cyanides such as zinc, cadmium, lead and copper as well as free cyanide ion. These materials could be toxic by ingestion or skin absorption, especially if pH changes due to contact with acid mine water cause a release of HCN gas.

There is at present no standard which requires cyanide monitoring of waste materials. The appropriate local, state or Federal environmental agency should be contacted if contamination is suspected.

-MORE-

D. GROUNDWATER MONITORING. As the subsurface geological structure may dictate, monitoring wells or trenches should be placed below any earth tanks, tailings pond or leach pond containing cyanide solutions in order to detect any possible solution loss that may contaminate groundwater. Water in wells or trenches should be sampled monthly, the cyanide content analyzed, and the results recorded and retained by the mine operator.

EXPLANATION: The migration of cyanide solutions into potable groundwater sources should be monitored in order to prevent possible poisonings. Monitoring wells should be used in porous or semiporous ground, and with lined ponds, tanks, etc. If the structure is on an impervious bedrock, a trench from the surface to the bedrock should suffice.

There is at present no standard which requires monitoring wells or trenches. However, if the mine potable water system originates from a well on the mine property, 30 CFR 55, 56, 57.20-2 must be enforced. The appropriate local, state or Federal water agency should be contacted if contamination is suspected.

E. MAINTAINING pH. The solution in any mill using cyanide in the circuit should be kept at a pH of 10 or greater by the addition of alkaline reagents. In a straight cyanide mill, the solution should be monitored continuously. In a flotation mill, periodic monitoring should be at intervals not to exceed 60 minutes. Records should be kept in both cases.

The pH meters used for monitoring cyanide solution circuits should be calibrated at the start of each shift by following the manufacturer's instructions. Buffer solutions of at least pH 4 and pH 10 should be available for pH meter calibration and accuracy check. A supply of pH paper should be available for emergency use, but it is not a substitute for the pH meter. Records should be kept of each calibration.

EXPLANATION: When the pH of a cyanide solution falls below 10, the critical point for the release of hydrogen cyanide gas is generally reached. The critical pH at which toxic amounts of HCN are given off can not be unequivocally stated, as gas evolution also depends upon solution temperature and concentration. At a pH of 7.6 there is theoretically 37 times more hydrogen cyanide gas in solution than there is cyanide ion, whereas the concentration ratio of HCN to CN at a pH of 10.0 is 0.07. If the pH is not continuously monitored, such a condition could exist without being recognized. If records

are kept, pH trends over time may be observed. The materials used to adjust pH are usually lime (CaO), caustic soda (NaOH), and soda ash (Na_2CO_3).

In a straight cyanide recovery circuit, continuous monitoring is usually a standard operating procedure. A low pH will result in loss of hydrogen cyanide gas into the atmosphere, and this condition creates a health hazard as well as an economic loss for the operator. Larger mills generally monitor the barren solution continuously with a recorder and an alarm.

The continuous monitoring of the pH meters is useless unless the meters are calibrated. An alternative method of measuring pH is by titration with standard solutions, but this is not as satisfactory as is continuous instrument measurement.

The identity of the cyanide solution is quickly lost in the flotation process, as the cyanide solution is diluted to about 1/1000th of its original concentration. The cyanide solution effectively ceases to be a major safety hazard when it is diluted by flotation solutions.

There is at present no standard which requires monitoring of circuit pH; however, the mill operator should realize that this provision is strongly recommended by the chemical suppliers and also will lead to economic savings.

F. AIR AGITATION. Aqueous cyanide solutions should not be mixed by air agitation methods.

EXPLANATION: In the air agitation process, carbon dioxide contained in the air may cause generation of HCN and other toxic or flammable gases. Solutions should be mixed by mechanical agitators or recirculation pumps.

HAPPY

HOLIDAYS

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

TAG AND LOCK PROCEDURES

A safety tag can be regarded as a life-saving sign by all of us. At times we may be required to work on a piece of equipment behind a control panel or in some other location where we cannot be seen by others working in the area. If we are not protected from the possibility of someone else energizing an electrical circuit, opening or closing a valve or starting a piece of equipment, a serious accident or injury may occur.

By following a prescribed lock-and-tag procedure known by all those working in the area, injuries and deaths can be avoided. Each company has its own procedures to follow; make sure you know the procedures where you work and follow them to the letter. If your operation doesn't have a lock-and-tag procedure that is written down, find out how one can be installed.

Key points that must be included in a lock-and-tag procedure include:

1. Everyone is equipped with their own locks or tags. Only one person is allowed to place a lock or tag on a piece of equipment and only that person may remove the tag.

2. The equipment to be worked on must be locked out at a primary power source to insure against the possibility of accidental activation of the equipment. The tag should include the name of the person doing the work and the date the tag was put on.

3. Inform the operator of the equipment if or when the equipment cannot be started for any reason.

4. Make sure you have placed the tag on the proper switch before beginning work by an attempt to start the equipment or try some other suitable test.

5. Insure that the equipment cannot be placed in operation without your knowledge and permission.

6. Never remove another person's tag. If for any reason a tag must be removed by someone other than the person that placed the tag, the general supervisor should be notified. If three people are working on a piece of equipment, all three tags should be in place by each individual and removed by each individual.

7. When in doubt, do not energize any piece of equipment until a thorough check of the equipment has been made.

-MORE-

If we all follow the procedure, even if it may include a few more steps, we could eliminate accidents in this area.

The Holmes Safety Association has a limited supply of "Lock-Out" safety posters. These posters measure 3-1/2'x 5' and are printed in color on heavy stock paper. Requests will be honored on a first come, first serve basis.

Contact: Louise
Holmes Safety Association
4800 Forbes Avenue, Rm. B185
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 621-4500 Ext. 650 or 649

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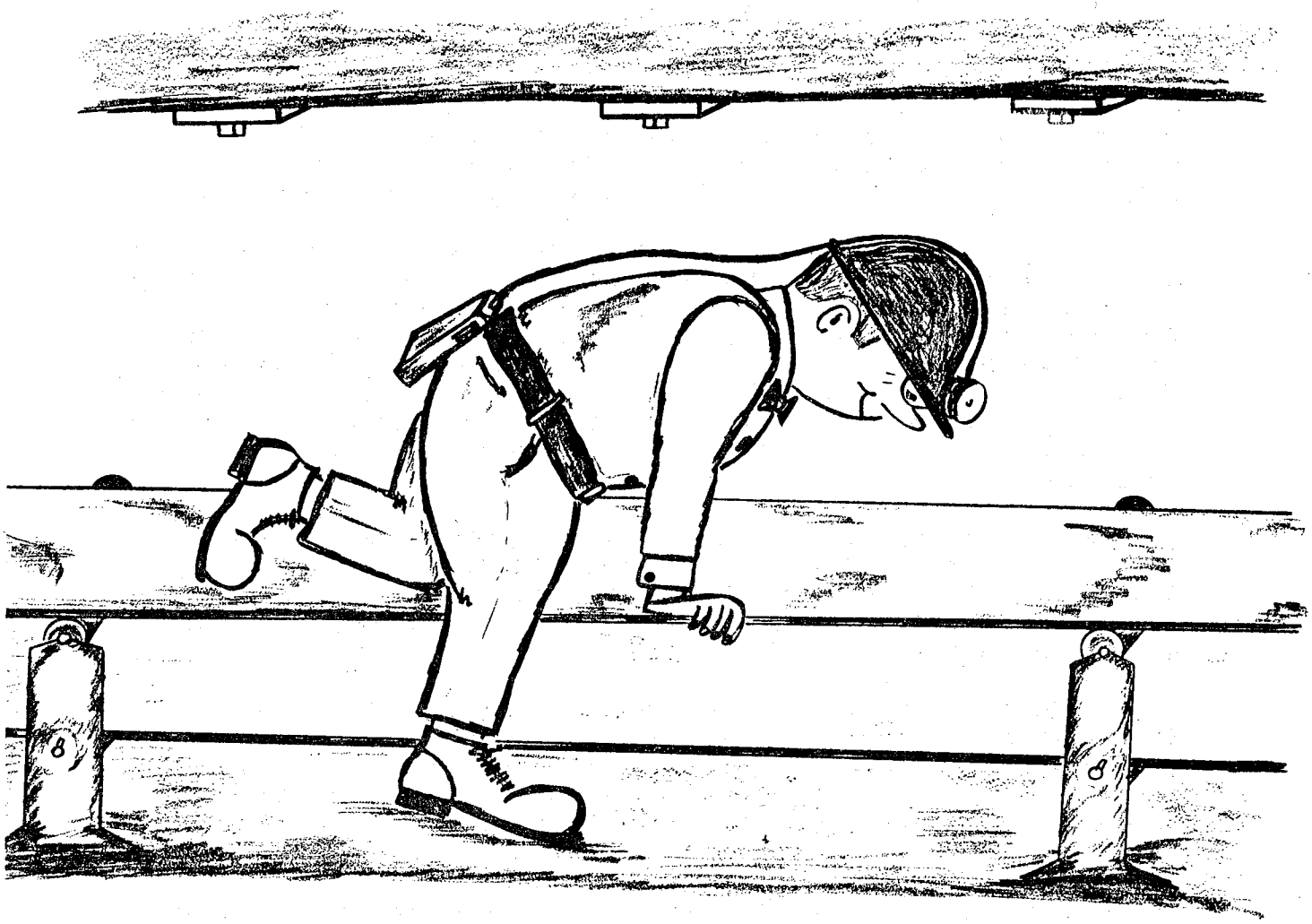
COUNCILS

Some MEMBERS keep their COUNCILS strong,
While others join and just belong;
Some dig right in, some serve with pride,
Some go along just for the ride.
Some volunteer to do their share,
While some lay back and just don't care;
On meeting nights some always show,
While there are those who never go.
Some always pay their dues ahead,
Some get behind for months, instead.
Some do their best, some build, some make,
Some never give, but always take.
Some drag, some pull, some don't, some do.
CONSIDER, WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU?

December 1983

NEVER CLIMB OVER



USE CROSSOVER OR GO AROUND

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

CONTROLLER FEVER

All of us have heard of typhoid fever and scarlet fever but how about "controller fever?" This type of fever can be as deadly as the types that affect our bodies if positive action isn't taken to remedy this "illness."

Some persons are so afflicted with controller fever that they sometimes cannot restrain themselves from trying out a piece of equipment even though they are not qualified and authorized.

There are many different types of machinery in and around homes and industries. Each is usually operated in a different manner and has hazards that are different that must be recognized by the operators. Normally, considerable time must be spent before operators have enough training to be considered competent and allowed to work with a minimum of supervision.

Remember when you bought your first automobile? Naturally you had to become familiar with the operational features before you could drive it safely and properly on the open road. You wouldn't allow an inexperienced driver to operate it for there was too much money involved and it could be very dangerous. This principle is also true concerning equipment. One safety rule is, "No one is permitted to operate a locomotive, shuttle car, or any other equipment unless authorized by the supervisor."

It looks easy when you watch an experienced person operate machinery. Remember the old saying, "Anything is easy if you know how." The experienced operator knows the equipment, what to do in the event of an emergency and can quickly tell when something goes wrong.

In the last few years, there have been several fatal accidents involving shuttle cars in which the operators were not authorized to handle this equipment. One accident involved a young miner who took a shuttle car while no one was around to stop him. His first trip was his last one. Another concerned a road cleaner who needed to move a "buggy" out of his path so he could finish his duties. He had no trouble starting the shuttle car but he couldn't stop it. You know the results; another fatal accident that should never have happened.

A mining machine looks innocent enough in the hands of an experienced operator but it can become a deadly weapon when operated by someone that isn't familiar with the controls and actions while in motion.

Unless you are familiar with equipment and authorized to operate it, don't try to even move it, because sooner or later it will prove to be your undoing.

Let an experienced operator handle it.

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR

BETWEEN AND AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Most of us have been away from our duties for a long weekend celebrating with our families and our thoughts have been far removed from our work, which is as it should be.

When we return to work in the middle of the holiday season, we need to be alert to the hazards of our jobs. The thoughts and discussions of recent festivities; the giving and receiving of presents; the big holiday dinners; and visiting with relatives and old friends are part of this wonderful season. But these matters will need to be cleared from our minds and our thoughts centered on the immediate duties at hand.

During the idle period, the mine has undergone many unknown changes due to climate and temperature. We need to be alert when you make work-area and machinery inspections. **TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED.**

Leave nothing to chance. Do not depend on the other person. Satisfy your own curiosity and make things right in your own mind. You will not be doubting other people's ability when you make your inspections, but simply reinforcing their judgment.

Let us do everything we can to continue the spirit of the season and vow that each of us will perform our jobs in the safety possible manner.

WINTER ALERT!

test mine roof often

Mine Safety and Health Administration

WINTER ALERT!

clean up loose coal and coal dust

Mine Safety and Health Administration

December 1983

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

CONTINUOUS-MINING-MACHINE OPERATOR

Operating a continuous-mining machine requires considerable skill, coordination and intelligence. It is a job requiring your complete attention because of constantly changing conditions.

Your first duty as a mining-machine operator should be to check the mining machine trailing cable and the fuse nip or junction box. Any splices needing additional insulation or those that are in need of complete repair should be taken care of before the loading operations begin. Of course, the power should be removed from the cable before these repairs are begun. You should also check the mining machine with respect to guards over drive chains and see that other safety devices are intact and functioning properly.

Even though the face areas have been checked at the start of the shift, it is also the duty of all crew members to check their work areas before they start to work. The roof, ribs and coal face should be thoroughly inspected by the mining-machine operator and helper. If conditions warrant, additional temporary support should be installed and any dislodged roof supports should be replaced.

At no time should any one go beyond roof supports except in those instances when you are installing safety posts or jacks. The minimum number of safety posts or jacks to be used is for normal roof conditions and extra protection is a must when the roof conditions become worse. Abnormal roof conditions require that you exercise good judgment in order to correctly evaluate the true conditions of the roof. When in doubt, get in touch with the supervisor immediately.

The actual operation of loading a cut of coal requires that the machine operator be alert to activities in front, above, and behind you. In addition to watching the coal face, ribs and roof, the operator must watch the loader boom, keeping it in the shuttle car and out of the timber line, as well as in a position to avoid being squeezed as the loader is maneuvered. You should always have enough clearance between the mining machine and the closest obstruction (post, solid rib, or even loose coal) for escape in the event of an emergency, such as a roof fall or striking a solid object (rib or piece of fallen roof) and turning the main body of the machine. The operator must be aware of the position of his/her feet when positioning the mining machine.

-More-

Everyone can help the mining-machine operator by being extremely careful when our duties require us to be in the vicinity of the mining machine. When it is necessary to pass the end of the miner boom, we should always attract the attention of the operator before passing through, or we might end up pinned against a timber or rib.

HAVE A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 1983

THE LAST WORD

The folly of human nature is neatly summed up by the case of a middle-aged school teacher who invested her life savings in a business enterprise which had been elaborately explained to her by a swindler.

When her investment disappeared and the wonderful dream was shattered, she went to the office of the Better Business Bureau. "Why on earth," they asked, "didn't you come to us first? Didn't you know about the Better Business Bureau?"

"Oh, yes," said the lady sadly, "I've always known about you. But I didn't come because I was afraid you'd tell me not to do it."

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The first essential of doing a job well is the wish to see the job done at all.

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Everything requires time. It is the one truly universal condition. All work takes place in time and uses up time. Yet most people take for granted this unique, irreplaceable, and necessary resource. Nothing else, perhaps, distinguishes effective executives as much as their tender loving care of time.

People who tell you what kind of people they are usually aren't.

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One of the best compliments a person can pay you is to say that you have a balanced view of life.

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Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with.

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Cooperation is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway.

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Wouldn't it be nice to be as sure of anything as some people are of everything?

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A suburbanite put on a last-minute spurt of speed to catch his train-but missed it. A by-stander remarked, "If you had just run a little faster you would have made it."

"No," the suburbanite replied, "it wasn't a case of running faster, but of starting sooner."

NO ONE CAN AFFORD AN ACCIDENT