

Livingston - Mt. Olive Coal Mine

Annual Output

Year	Tons of coal produced	Days operated of the mine	Total employees	Employees killed	Year	Tons of coal produced	Days operated	Total employees	Employees killed
1904		Sinking of the mine		1	1934	180,524	142	349	0
1905	35,155	184	99	1	1935	189,028	138	343	0
1906	185,490	218	190	5	1936	154,535	134	313	0
1907	412,230	221	326	3	1937	93,032	106	253	1
1908	530,159	208	474	1	1938	25,095	43	225	0
1909	470,004	151	564	2	1939	200,047	220	208	2
1910	613,962	199	567	6	1940	179,731	166	217	0
1911	659,103	200	607	4	1941	197,208	189	226	0
1912	737,632	195	622	3	1942	229,774	199	222	0
1913	848,715	212	590	3	1943	278,430	247	206	0
1914	805,752	192	626	2	1944	272,046	250	200	0
1915	809,290	179	688	2	1945	271,855	252	200	0
1916	961,726	207	648	5	1946	259,285	230	204	0
1917	936,004	216	647	2	1947	276,238	246	203	2
1918	826,316	196	666	2	1948	233,371	210	203	0
1919	663,552	162	626	1	1949	200,352	191	201	0
1920	504,981	134	504	0	1950	194,134	183	203	0
1921	578,946	158	526	1	1951	189,925	193	203	0
1922	457,916	104	626	1	1952	140,702	183	140	0
1923	599,885	142	639	1	1953	123,305	159	140	0
1924	553,106	129	710	0	1954	94,976	118	140	0
1925	575,201	130	734	1	1955	913	5	82	0
1926	548,599	177	645	2	1956	106,542	198	80	0
1927	275,024	85	592	0	1957	112,451	239	86	0
1928	285,927	153	474	0	1958	114,852	201	99	0
1929	260,134	99	401	0	1959	105,434	186	96	0
1930	110,797	40	386	1	1960	103,905	196	92	0
1931		Mine Closed			1961	87,164	169	83	0
1932	133,145	110	360	2	1962	81,487	185	75	1
1933	155,339	115	349	0	1963	51,376	189	45	0
					1964	3,211	21	41	0

Mine Fatalities

July 21, 1904 – Alexander McLean, 30, employed in the sinking of the shaft. McLean and several others were being lowered to the bottom of the shaft in a bucket when the engineer lost control of the engine and the bucket fell to the bottom. McLean lost his life and the other men were slightly injured. Surviving: Widow

February 6, 1905 – Andy Yacup, 29, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: widow and three children

March 3, 1906 – Charles Wall, 33, yardman, was crushed when he was repairing a car on the side track. A switch engine pushed cars onto the side track and Charles was caught under the wheels of the car he was working on. Surviving: Widow and four children

March 14, 1906 – Julius Fanel, 45, blaster and loader, was killed by falling slate. He was single.

June 23, 1906 – Joseph Abrahams, 28, blaster and loader, was killed by a falling clod. Surviving: Widow

September 28, 1906 – John Looser, 20, driver, was killed when he was caught between a mine car and a rib of coal. He was single.

October 23, 1906 – Charles Horton, 30, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and one child.

January 29, 1907 – Sam Graham, 51, miner, was injured by falling slate. Died February 9. Surviving: Widow and four children

June 21, 1907 – Ernest Lah, 32, machine helper, was killed by falling coal. Surviving: Widow and two children

October 2, 1907 – Louis Malench, 18, miner, was seriously burned by an explosion of powder. He died the following day. He was working with his father.

October 14, 1908 – Chris Klitz, 37, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and one child

May 13, 1909 – John Heiber, 45, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and two children

July 30, 1909 – Tony Kukovich, 20, driver, was run over by a loaded trip of cars. He broke his back and had his scalp lacerated. He died August 27, 1909. He was single.

January 8, 1910 – Joseph Kaviathowskie, 29, machine runner, was walking down the railroad tracks on his way home when cars were being switched and he was run down and killed. Surviving: Widow

January 18, 1910 – Rudolph Hailenberg, 32, miner, was going into the washhouse to wash and change his clothes, when he fell in a basin of water. He was scalded from the waist down and died on March 29. He was single.

January 22, 1910 – Anton Melkush, 19, driver, was found dead under the first car of his loaded trip. It is supposed that he fell under the car. There was no witness to the accident. Surviving: Widowed mother

March 7, 1910 – K. Galkus, 32, machine helper, was killed when about four ton of coal and slate fell on him. He was single.

July 13, 1910 – Matthew Stoiser, 34, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and four children

October 13, 1910 – Conrad Dohr, 34, miner, was killed by a falling clod. Surviving: Widow and one child

September 14, 1911 – Bert Rico, 28, machine helper, was killed by falling coal. He was single.

October 11, 1911 – John Markhefka, 41, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and one child

November 6, 1911 – Bartolets Matench, 49, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and one child

November 17, 1911 – Charles Zamelus, 45, machine runner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and three children

January 29, 1912 – James Haning, 37, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and three children

December 11, 1912 – Anton Shotkus, 37, miner, was killed when he came in contact with a trolley wire. Surviving: Widow

December 29, 1912 – Leopold Wrischink, 22, driver, was killed by pit cars. He was single.

February 17, 1913 – Henry Loch, 25, miner was killed by falling slate. He was single.

March 7, 1913 – Mike Polinsky, 19, laborer, was killed instantly when he fell down the shaft. He was single.

December 16, 1913 – Adam Palak, 23, machine helper, was electrocuted. He was single.

March 26, 1914 – John Tokas, 34, machine helper, was killed by falling coal. Surviving: Widow and one child

November 2, 1914 – Mike Krisman, 34, miner was killed by falling coal. Surviving: Widow and one child

July 21, 1915 – Louis Scocco, 26, miner, was killed by falling coal. He was single.

October 11, 1915 – John Thompson, 40, miner – was killed by falling slate. He was single.

February 25, 1916 – Mike Horatick, 33, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and three children

February 28, 1916 – Joseph Schmagel, 21, driver, was killed by pit cars. He was single.

May 9, 1916 – Anton Jagis, 31, machine helper, was killed by falling coal and slate. He was single.

October 18, 1916 – Barney Sobut, 21, machine helper, was injured on October 18 when he was struck by falling slate. He died on November 21. He was single

November 17, 1916 – Peter Lutvemapect, 45, miner, was killed by falling rock. Surviving: Widow and two children

July 25, 1917 – Tony Spencer, 27, machine helper, was killed by a fall of coal. He was single.

October 26, 1917 – John Domsick, 44, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and eight children

May 24, 1918 – Elmo Sandrin, 19, driver, was caught between the motor and loaded car. He was single.

June 15, 1918 – Anton Kletz, 45, miner, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow and five children

April 12, 1919 – Mike Milcic, 49, miner, was killed by a fall of coal. Surviving: Widow and six children

October 12, 1921 – Matt Tondello, 33, miner, was killed by a falling clod. Surviving: Widow and two children

September 2, 1922 – Theodore Weeks, 19, miner, was run over by a motor car. The motorman and trip rider were taking a trip of empty cars in after lunch and saw Theodore lying on the tracks asleep. Being too close to stop the motor ran over him. He was single.

August 13, 1923 – Modesta Passetti, 26, loader, was killed by falling slate. He was single.

August 6, 1925 – Charles Dunbach, 66, miner was killed by falling coal. Surviving: Widow

May 5, 1926 – August Waiczis, 55, loader, was killed by a fall of slate. He was single.

September 29, 1926 – John Bacca, 40, loader, was killed by falling coal. Surviving: Widow and three children

January 17, 1930 – Steve Szedgedy, 46, loader, was killed by falling coal. Surviving: Widow and three sons

October 27, 1932 – George Kerin, 24, loader, was killed by a fall of rock. He was single.

December 17, 1932 – George Philippi, 25, trip rider, was caught by runaway cars. He was single.

February 16, 1937 – Mike Cirar, 50, loader, was killed by falling slate. Surviving: Widow

September 1, 1939 – George Slifka, 35, motorman, was crushed by a motor. Surviving: Widow and four children


October 6, 1939 – George Kopuster, Jr., 31, miner, was killed by falling rock. He was single.

April 28, 1947 – Freeland Peterson, 45, general laborer, was crushed between two cars. Surviving: Widow and five children

December 11, 1947 – James Smith, 21, apprentice laborer was killed when coupling cars. He was single. James had served four years in the U.S. Navy and survived through the Pacific Ocean Theater of operations without even a scratch. He was killed in the mine shortly after his return home.

March 28, 1962 – William E. Kunz, 48, loading machine operator, was killed by falling rock. Surviving: Widow and two children

Information from Annual Coal Reports of Illinois 1904 through 1962.

Book No. 348  CERTIFICATE No. 34725

STATE OF ILLINOIS

State Miners' Examining Board

SUBSTITUTE

Certificate of Competency of Coal Miner

To Whom It May Concern:

This Is to Certify, That Joe Benan
of Livingston Madison County, State of Illinois,
whose description is attached hereto, having made oath, and given satisfactory evidence, that he has worked in Coal Mines for not less than two years, and having answered intelligently and correctly, the questions required by law and the Rules of this Board; and being found duly qualified, is hereby granted this **Certificate of Competency**, and is entitled and authorized to seek and accept employment as a Coal Miner in the Mines of the State of Illinois.

Age 43; height 5 feet 5 inches; weight 154; color of hair gray; color of eyes gray
nationality Austrian; distinctive marks none;
years of experience Seventeen nov 3-09

DONE BY authority of the State Miners' Examining Board, this 25 day
of mar 1916, in proof of which we hereby affix our seal and attach
our signatures.

[SEAL] Miners' Examining Board

Ben Maher President
John K. ... Secretary

Progressive Mine Workers of America

The Progressive Mine Workers of American was the union that represented coal miners at the Livingston mine. In 1935 the following men were elected to offices:

President	Herman Erschen
Vice President.....	Henry Augustine
Secretary	John “Kop” Kopuster
Financial Secretary	Paul Heinz
Treasurer	John Sarko
Auditors	Steven Fech
	Charles Hudock
	Frank Urban
Tellers	Walter Sobut
	Steven Papa
	Jake Smerk
	Gus Miller
Mine Committee	Delio Fasol
	Joe Covi
	John Hriber
Doorkeeper	Arthur Heinz
Trustees.....	Martin Ocepek
	Geno Seganfredo
	John Widmar
Trial Board.....	Joe Dixon
	Paul Stano
	Andy Richelok
	Stanley Karnosky, Sr.
	Walter Heinz

Progressive Mine Workers of America Women’s Auxiliary

In October 1932 the Women’s Auxiliary of the Progressive Mine Workers of America was formed in Livingston. This was an organization for women whose husbands worked in the mine. Forty-five members attended the first meeting and elected Lena Evans as president. Their meeting began with a business session and then they played bingo or bunco with prizes awarded. Refreshments were served. Sometimes the organization sponsored a float in the homecoming parade. They also sponsored a stand at the homecoming to sell rugs, comforters or other fancy work.

The following poem was written about the local mines around Livingston. Mine bosses of the time are mentioned. There is no one credited with this writing but the poem appeared in the *Staunton Star-Times* issue Friday May 17, 1912.

 Toot! Toot! Toot!
There's a cadence in the breezes
 In the merry month of May
 We hear it in the evening,
 And at the break o'day.
 It rumbles o'er the city
 Over hill and hollow too,
And it mingles in the morning
And it sounds real good to you.
 There is no sweeter music
 Upon the balmy air,
There's nothing so enchanting,
 It sounds good every where.
'Tis the tooting of the whistles,
With their shrill and screeching blast
 That informs us referendum
 Has voted right at last.
As the garden sass is growing
And as daddy's had his fish
 He'll go to work a-singing
 That is, we hope and wish.
 His dinner pail'll be fuller
And his arm is strong and stout;
And we hope he'll dig the diamonds,
 And scatter them about.
 So Jimmy Bird get busy,
 Go out upon the tramp,
And buckle on the harness
On the mules about DeCamp.
And Albert Gerlt go hustle
 And clean the dirt away,
For all the men must work
 Around DeCamp today.
And hurry up Consolidated
And blow your bugle horn,
And Webster Hayes and Handshy,
 And Mr. Weissenborn,
Go tell our men you're ready
 And you want it to be seen,
Those dusky diamonds hoisting,
 Around about Fourteen.

And managers, Miller and Wilson,
 Take Harry, Al and Bob,
Stop Roberts from assessing
 And put him on the job.
Get all the drivers ready,
 And every mothers son,
Should get the cages going,
 Down at Number One.
And hurry up Sam Westwood,
 And you and Uncle Bob,
Pile up the rock at No. 2
And throw them on a gob.
Let's show to all creation,
 That heav'ns no better place,
 Than No. 2 a-working,
And every man in place.
And Hebenstreit at Livingston,
 You know just what to do,
With men like Moss and others,
 You sure will go some too.
Get in your working harness,
And strew the tracks with sand,
And BUST another record,
 Or else the belly band.
So fire up all the engines,
And make the smoke to teem,
And fill up all the boilers,
 With water and with steam.
For everyone is with you,
 The long, the short, the tall,
We're going to do some business,
 That's gone beyond RECALL
Ho! Drivers, loaders, machine men
 Let's put the armor on,
And dig some coal for keeps,
 For our money's nearly gone.
Let's forget the INITIATIVE
REFERENDUM and RECALL,
And work like hell's a-poppin'
 And just dig coal—that's all.