

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
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MC 44

Manuscript Collection

Taylorville Mine War Scrapbook, 1933

.16 cu ft

Historical Sketch

In the early part of 1932 a new wage scale was submitted to a vote by the coal miners and was rejected. Later, a second vote was held and the tally sheets were deposited in the vault at the Ridgely-Farmers Bank in Springfield. On August 10, 1932, the tally sheets, enroute to the Miner's Building in Springfield, were stolen. This caused a split among the mine workers and caused the establishment of the Progressive Mine Workers of America. Both unions (UMW and PMW) adopted the same wage scale. The main issue was which union would control the minors.

Scope and Content

The Taylorville "Mine War" Scrapbook, March 17, 1933 - October 11, 1933, consists of .16 cubic feet of copies of clippings chiefly from Taylorville, Illinois daily newspapers, the Daily Breeze and the Courier. The collection documents eight months of the Illinois mine wars which started in 1932 as a wage dispute but soon became a power struggle between the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Miners of America for control of the mines in central and southern Illinois. The articles document the violence, particularly the bombings and beatings of the Progressive Mine Workers of America members in the Taylorville area; the attempts at peace negotiations; and the murder trail in Vandalia of Albert Mattozzi (Chief of Police of Kincaid, Illinois) and Emil DuPire who were charged with killing three people in Kincaid, Illinois. Of particular note is the "Confession of Alleged PMA Gunman" which appeared in the Taylorville Daily Breeze on September 5, 1933, and "A Statement by a Former Progressive as to the Bad Conditions and the Lack of Leadership in the Progressive Miners of America," August 9, 1933.

Tracings

Taylorville, Illinois
Progressive Mine Workers of America
United Mine Workers
Coal Miners
Labor Disputes
Mine Wars