



HONORS FOR THESE MEN will be given next month for recognition they brought West Virginia by winning first place in the National First Aid and Mine Rescue Contest at Fort Wayne, Ind. They compose the first aid team from Bergoe No. 4 mine of Pardee & Curtain Lumber Co. and are, left to right: S. C. Coakley, Jr., Ira Stidom, B. H. Culright, company safety director who trained them, James Stump, George Bonovich, captain, A. E. Cullip, and Francis Frazier.

1953 Beckley Post Herald, November 2

First Aid Experts To Be Recognized At Dec. 5 Banquet

The first national mine safety champions in more than three decades — the first aid team from Pardee & Curtin Lumber Co. Bergoo No. 4 mine — will be honored for its achievement early next month when mining men from throughout West Virginia will gather to pay their tribute.

The occasion will be a banquet sponsored by Mid-State Coal Mining Institute, whose banner the team carried to the National First Aid and Mine Rescue Contest held last month in Fort Wayne, Ind. This event will be held Saturday evening, December 5, at 8:30 p.m. at Camp Caesar, near Richwood.

West Virginia's chief executive, Governor William C. Marland, has been invited to lead the state's homage to this group of safety experts which triumphed over 46 other first aid teams. It was the first national championship in this field to be brought to West Virginia since 1921.

Several nationally known figures in the field of coal mine safety also are being extended invitations to participate in the affair. They include J. J. Forbes, Washington, D. C., director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines; Charles Ferguson, Washington, D. C., acting director of the Safety Division, United Mine Workers of America; Joseph Bierer, Charleston, chief of the West Virginia Department of Mines; and Harry Gandy, Jr., Washington, D. C., head of the Safety Division, National Coal Association.

Numerous other prominent figures in the State Department of Mines, U. S. Bureau of Mines, United Mine Workers, and West Virginia's coal industry also are being invited to attend the dinner and honor the men.

Responsible for bringing this great honor to this state are six men employed at Pardee & Curtin team, Ira Stidom, James Stump, A. E. Cutlip, Francis Frazier, and S. C. Coakley, Jr.

These men, competing against the crack first aid teams of the nation, lost only 82 points in working 10 simulated first aid problems to score 4,918 points to win the national championship.

It has been 32 years since a national first aid championship has been brought to West Virginia. The last time was September 9-11, 1920, at Denver, Colorado, when a team from Scarbro mine of New River Co. emerged victorious. It has also been 31 years since any national mine safety championship has been brought to this state. In September, 1921, a mine rescue team from McDonald mine of New River Co. won the national mine rescue contest.

Members of these two champion teams, who are still living, are being issued invitations to attend the dinner December 5 and help honor the men from Bergoo who have joined their select circle of national champs.

Plans for the dinner were forwarded at a meeting of a special committee appointed by B. H. Cutright, president of Mid-State Coal Mining Institute. Members of the committee are E. P. Selby, C. I. Bennett, Charles Gooding, Joseph McQuade, R. H. Mason, John Poft, J. H. Ferguson, and Joseph Kessler.