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Coal miners approve new contract

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Coal miners, weary of their winter-long strike, voted Friday to accept a new contract with the soft coal industry. United Mine Workers President Arnold Miller said the 160,000 miners who have been on strike since Dec. 6 will have to return to work Monday. Energy experts say the coal could begin moving within a week and shipments can be back to normal early in April. That means the cutbacks in electric power — and the higher electricity charges that consumers have been paying in the East and Midwest — may be ending shortly.

The 109-day-old strike has meant cutbacks of electric power in the east central part of the nation. Officials have been able to keep power plants going by buying surplus electricity and non-union coal, but those alternatives are expensive. Potomac Edison Co has doubled its rates for customers in western Maryland. An unofficial UPI count based on returns from 532 locals, or 74 percent of the UMW's 719 locals, showed 47,371 or 55.9 percent of the miners voted "yes" and 37,385 or 44.1 percent voted "no."

The vote was a sharp reversal of the more than 2-1 margin by which the miners rejected the Bituminous Coal Operators Association's previous offer earlier this month. Operators won approval of the new pact by reducing the amount miners must pay for medical expenses from \$700 to \$200 and by removing specific punishment for wildcat strikers. The new contract will provide miners with a 31 percent pay hike from \$7.80 to \$10.20 per hour over a three-year period. There also is a cost-of-living

clause which could provide additional pay. The outcome of the vote had been in doubt until Friday evening. The White House crisis group that has been operating through the coal negotiations met Thursday and Friday to discuss contingency plans in case the miners rejected the pact. The UPI count reflected a 5-1 margin of approval by Alabama miners and a substantial vote to accept the contract by locals in Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky and parts of West Virginia, which had voted down the last industry offer.

Pennsylvania miners voted against the new contract by a 4-3 margin. It was nearly a standoff in Ohio with the new pact losing by less than 200 votes out of 11,600 counted. In Alabama, with 34 of 66 locals reporting, the vote was 4,015-677 for approval. The long strike had taken its toll on the miners and their financial problems were evident in comments made at the polls. "A lot of the boys are running pretty low on money," said Clarence Minor, secretary-treasurer of Local 1569 in Middleboro, Ky. "I'm ready to go back to work," said Bud Coleman in Bessemer, Ala. "My flour barrel is getting low." Dennis Scarford, secretary-treasurer in the UMW's district 31 in West Virginia, said many miners felt they had no choice but to accept the new contract. "Most of them are really downhearted," Scarford said. "They're all worried that if we turn down the contract they don't know what will happen next."

Columbia Missourian

O.J. Simpson goes to 49ers
Story on Page 6

70th Year — No. 161 Good Morning! It's Saturday, March 25, 1978 14 Pages — 15 Cents

Insight Prices rise as dollar's value drops

By Steve Lipson
Missourian staff writer

Never before has the U.S. dollar been worth so little to so many. That can cause some painful adjustments, but it solves more problems than it creates. The dollar is worth about two Japanese yen, a little more than 230 German marks and a little less than two Swiss francs. A year ago, the dollar was worth about 300 yen, 2.3 marks and 2.5 francs. The most obvious effect of the falling dollar is that it takes more dollars to pay for imported goods. National figures show that a Toyota Celica ST that cost \$4,369 in July now costs \$4,989. Richard Head, owner of Richard Head Toyota, 1204 Madison St., refused to discuss the recent price changes. Prices for Volkswagens have risen twice since the model year began last October, said John M. Riddick, general manager at John Riddick Motors, 1600 Business 63 S. The last increase, which averaged 3.5 percent, came on Dec. 15 — close on the heels of a 5 percent drop in the dollar's value during November. The price of an average Datsun increased 1.6 percent on Feb. 23, said Charles Wilson, sales manager at Kelley Datsun-Volvo-Mercedes, 416 Vandiver Drive. The second price increase since the model year change. During December the dollar fell about 2 percent against the yen. "The price increase was entirely to offset the increase in the price of the yen," Wilson said. Since the middle of February the dollar has fallen an additional 6 percent against the yen. But there is a positive effect as well. The dollar's slide makes American goods more attractive. Besides getting less competition from imports at home, American exports are cheaper overseas. "We're competitive in areas we haven't been for years," said Donald Schilling, an associate professor of economics at the University. The dollar's slide will have an inflationary impact here. But it takes nine to 15 months for a change in the value of the dollar to work its way through the economy. By that time, said Schilling, its effect "is so fuzzed over by other events that only a very clever statistician with a large computer could tell" (See DOLLAR'S, Page 14)

Storm brings deaths, snow record

By Wayne J. Hellman and Ron Ebel
Missourian staff writers

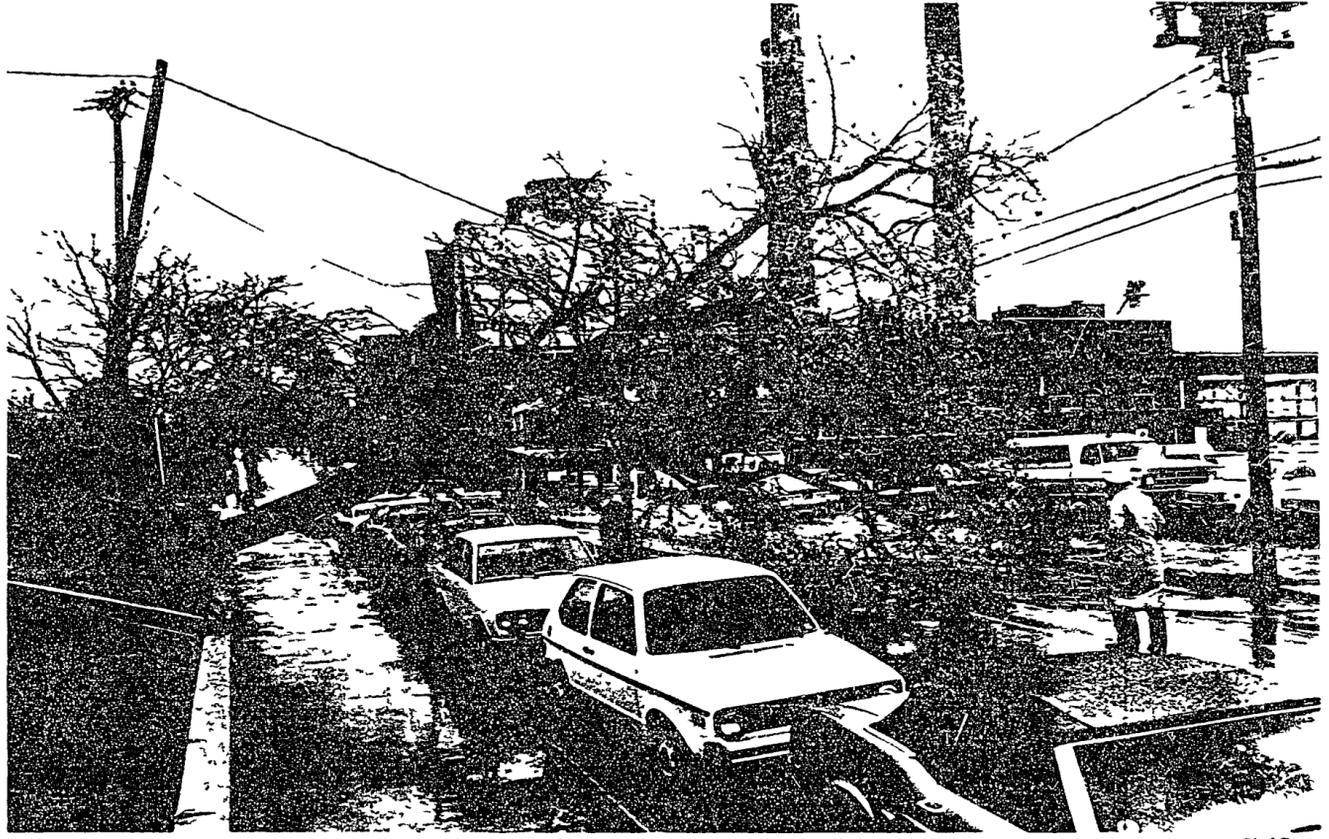
Heavy rains and snow Friday caused hazardous conditions that led to two deaths, dozens of accidents and scattered flooding in the Boone County area. The snowfall established a seasonal record. Although buses and airlines were operating throughout the day, dozens of area traffic accidents slowed normally sluggish rush-hour traffic to a crawl. Two persons died as a result of the ice-covered roads when a United Parcel Service van collided with an oil tanker on U.S. 53 about 18 miles (29 kilometers) north of Columbia.

David S. Ballman, 29, of 522 S. Davion St., driver of the van, and Carroll J. Moore, 57, Camdenon, Mo., died in a head-on collision between a propane transport truck and a United Parcel Service delivery van on U.S. 63 at the junction of Missouri 22. The van apparently was headed north and the transport truck south when the collision occurred at about 8 a.m. Authorities speculate that one of the vehicles skidded on the icy highway and went into the opposite lane, but snow obscuring the skid marks made it impossible to tell which vehicle crossed into the oncoming traffic. There were no witnesses. Dave Busse of the Boone County Fire Protection District said about 24 fire-

fighters, two Missouri State Highway Patrol cars, two cars from the Boone County Sheriff's Department and one from the Sturgeon Police Department were called to the scene. Although there was no fire, Busse said the transport truck was leaking propane gas, and water was applied to stop the chance of fire. Patrolman at the scene worked until midnight, rerouting traffic through Sturgeon while tow trucks worked to move the vehicles from the highway. Friday's snowfall officially broke the record set in 1910-11 for snowfall accumulation during one season. By 6 p.m., total season accumulation was 47.3 inches (118.2 centimeters), breaking the old record of 46.2 inches

(115.5 centimeters), said Russ Marshall, weather specialist for the National Weather Service. Flash flood warnings were issued Friday afternoon for Boone, Callaway, Howard, Cooper, Pettis and Monticello counties by the National Weather Service. Columbia received 2.37 inches (5.92 centimeters) of rain by 3 p.m. Friday, while areas to the north and west of the city received only snow. Local flooding was minimal, however, as the Missouri River was predicted to reach 26.5 feet (7.9 meters) at Booneville and 27.5 feet (8.2 meters) at Jefferson City today, lower than most local levees said David Horner, weather specialist for the National Weather Service. Flooding was con-

scattered to major creeks near the river and flooding in the city between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., and at least six major accidents took place in the county. The city police said 35 accidents were reported between 3 and 8 p.m. One unlucky highway patrolman never made it to the scene of an accident to which he was dispatched. William K. Seibert, 23, of 130 Maple Grove Way, was traveling north on Providence Road at a high speed when he skidded into a car at Burnham Road. (See MINOR, Page 11)



Friday morning's wind and ice apparently were too much for this tree, which toppled onto power lines along South Fifth Street just north of the University parcel plant. The tree was stopped from

falling all the way by overhead lines, preventing damage to the cars parked below. Public Works Department crewmen removed the tree about 30 minutes after arriving at the scene.

Heavy rains bring floods to residents

By Dean Minderman
Missourian staff writer

Forty days and nights of flooding didn't take Noah in his water-tight ark, but it took only one Friday morning of flooding on Hirth Avenue to upset residents' knees-deep in water. Cars waded slowly down the street for about three hours as the water gushed as high as a foot and a half. Water filled the street from curb to curb. Faulty storm sewers caused the flooding that blocked cars, drenched basements, and even transformed the yard at 209 Hirth Ave. into a small lake. The flooding began at about 7:30 a.m., but there was little anyone could do about it but watch. A city public works crew got to the scene about 8 a.m., but it was unable to do anything because of the high water level. "They just turned around and shook their heads," said Erich Albert, 207 Hirth Ave. Meanwhile, about half the block between Ash and Worley streets was submerged and the storm sewers did little more than gurgle. Albert said the flooding affected eight homes to varying degrees. At 11 a.m. the city crew returned in four trucks, but again no luck — the water level was too high to combat. By 11:30 a.m., however, the rain (See BOAD, Page 14)

Coming Sunday

Lamara Warren Shawna Adams Gene Whitlock

Experts supply little-known facts about the Easter Bunny

Cracking the Easter egg rackets

Everyone knows babies are delivered by storks and Christmas presents by Santa Claus. But how about those chocolate Easter eggs youngsters find in their Easter baskets? How does the Easter Bunny make and deliver them to all the chocolate lovers of the world? A group of 5-year-old pre-schoolers at the Jack and Jill Nursery school know. Find out in Sunday's People section.

A— or A+? That is the question

University undergraduates soon may open their transcripts under an array of B+'s or C-'s instead of the current B's or C's. The University Faculty Council is studying a proposal by the Arts and Science Policy Committee to add pluses and minuses to the traditional letter grades. Read about it in Sunday's Missouriian.

Go fly a kite . . .

Kites, those flimsy paper things that were put together, that wouldn't fly, or — if they flew at all — flew straight into the branches of a tree. They are now a serious adult hobby. With the introduction of fine materials and improved designs, kites are no longer children's toys. Read about the kite age in Sunday's Vibrations.



M.U. to reopen talks on Weldon Spring

By Julie Koppen
Missourian staff writer

The University Board of Curators Friday unanimously approved President James Olson's recommendation to reopen negotiations with the Missouri Conservation Commission on the 8,000-acre (3,200-hectare) Weldon Spring property. Olson proposed that the University retain 650 to 1,000 acres (260 to 400 hectares) for "University activity and future development." He said he hopes to have a "concrete recommendation" by the April board meeting. He and several curators emphasized that reopening negotiations does not represent any commitment to sell the property. The decision came one week after the Missouri Senate cut \$1 million from the 1979-80 University budget. Senators said they wanted the University "out of the park business." Sen Joe Frapper, R-St. Louis, said the University could have earned approximately \$1 million from interest on the \$13.6 million offered by the conservation commission for the Weldon Spring tract. The offer was rejected by the curators in September. The Senate's attitude didn't have any bearing on the board's decision, board chairman Rex Williams said after the meeting. He said the board rejected the offer in September to allow a 13-member committee time to study the educational uses of the property. Now that the study has been completed "we're in a position to consider all" the alternatives, he said. Although he praised the committee for a "blue ribbon" report, Olson said he had "serious funding concerns" about its recommendations. The first phase of the committee's recommendation would cost \$30,000 for the hiring of an interim director and staff. The committee proposed to use the land for archeological excavations, ecological and biological research. (See BOARD, Page 14)