



Special Collections and University Archives

**Theodore “Ted” Spewock Collection
Manuscript Group 169**

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Theodore “Ted” Spewock Collection; Manuscript Group 169
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 box, 1 linear foot

Biographical Note

Theodore “Ted” Spewock was born in 1921. He started mining coal in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania in 1960. His mining operation had two employees before 1970 and they mined about 12 tons of bituminous coal per day. The coal seam that Spewock mined was about four feet high. After 1970, he worked the mine shafts by himself and mined two tons of coal daily. According to a 1977 article in *The Pittsburgh Press*, “He now works six days a week, taking time off annually for an extended vacation. He gets \$22.50 a ton for the coal he mines. Mostly it’s bought by local residents who use it for home heating.” With fewer than four employees, Spewock’s one-person coal mining operation was not subject to the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act. According to another article in *The Free Lance-Star* on December 13, 1977, he stated that “The big companies didn’t want the small operator in business, it’s a pity. When I see the federal inspectors come here, I get goose bumps. I just keep my head above water. I don’t make enough to cover expenses and replace my machinery when it wears out.” After running his operation for 24 years, Spewock retired from coal mining in 1984. In 1989, he gave a tour of the Clark Hollow Mine, Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and the oral history interview is part of the collection.

Scope and Content

Provenance

This collection was donated by Dr. Theresa McDevitt, Outreach and Government Documents Librarian at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Spewock contributed to the biographical note and historical information about the collection.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open to the public.

Processor

In 2014, the collection was initially organized and the finding aid was written by the IUP Special Collections & University Archives.

Container List

Box 1 (5 folders)

1. Magazine Article: *Focus Magazine*. (November 3, 1974), “A Miner’s Story,” p. 2
2. Magazine Article: *National Geographic Magazine*. (June 1978), “A Miner’s Story,” Volume 153 Number 6, pp. 740, 752-753 (2 copies)
3. Newspaper Articles (copies):
 - a. *The Pittsburgh Press*. (August 28, 1977), “One-Man mines shovel share of coal boom: Pony-pick operation thriving,” p. G1
 - b. *The Express*, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. (December 13, 1977), “One-pony miner in Pennsylvania shoos U.S. Inspectors,” p. 9

- c. *The Gettysburg Times*. (December 14, 1977), "One man miner fears Federal regulation," p. 17
 - d. *Indiana Evening Gazette*. (December 14, 1977), "One-horse miner keeps Feds at bay," p. 38
 - e. *The Titusville Herald*. (December 14, 1977), "Inspectors causing miners' goose bumps," p. 13
 - f. *The Bradford Era*. (December 15, 1977), "One horse miner afraid of checkers," p. 25
 - g. *New Castle News*. (March 11, 1978), "Pick miner goes about job," p. 1
 - h. *Altoona Mirror*. (April 22, 1978), "One-man coal operation fights Federal bugging," p. 15
 - i. *Indiana Evening Gazette*. (April 25, 1978), "Photograph, no title: One doesn't usually think of a coal mine as a one-man operation," p. 19
4. Oral History Interview: Theodore Spewock – Interview Materials, no date (2 CD copies)
 5. Oral History Interview: Theodore Spewock – Tour of Clark Hollow Mine, Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 1989 (2 CD copies)