

# 2003-2009 Films on West Virginia and Appalachia Labor History

A Chronological List  
Plus a list of earlier labor films  
Steve Fesenmaier July 2009

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Uncompleted films on WV/Appalachian Labor History

## **TERRY LIVELY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FILM**

2010?      ? mins. Vandalia Productions

WV filmmaker Terry Lively, who completed an earlier film on the UE Local 170, “A New Beginning”(see below), has begun a project with WVLHA board member Cathy Pleska detailing the history and importance of public employees in West Virginia. Website for Vandalia Productions - <http://www.vandalia-productions.com/index.html>.

## **THEM THAT WORK – HOW MATEWAN INSPIRED A STATE**

2009?      ? mins. Pewter Productions

Jason Brown, a West Virginia filmmaker now living and teaching in Louisiana, decided to make a documentary about the making and importance of John Sayles’ 1987 labor epic, “Matewan.” He interviewed Sayles and some of the stars of the film including Chris Cooper, a recent Oscar winner, and David Straithairn, nominated for his role in “Good Night and Good Luck” as Edward R. Morrow. He also visited the annual reenactment held every May in the actual town of Matewan, and talked to many people whose lives were influenced by the film. *Website – Them That Work Productions, <http://www.vandalia-productions.com/index.html>.*

## **BROTHERS ON THE LINE**

2009      ? mins. Porter Street Pictures

Sasha Reuther, the grandson of Walter Reuther, is directing this landmark film about his grandfather Walter Reuther and great uncles Roy and Victor. The Reuthers came from a family of labor activists in Wheeling where a statue was erected in honor of Walter several years ago. Walter served as president of the United Auto Workers for three decades with Roy and Victor as advisors. Interviews with Senator Teddy Kennedy, Andrew Young, Congressman Conyers and many others. Website about Reuther Memorial - <http://wikimapia.org/9881472/Walter-Reuther-Memorial>. Access – this film is still not completed as of 8.1.2009. <http://www.brothersontheline.com/>

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## **2009 Recently completed films on WV/Appalachian Labor History**

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### **REMEMBERING WILLIAM C. BLIZZARD**

2009 30 mins. Killer Productions

William C. Blizzard (Dec. 22, 1916 - Dec. 29, 2008) was one of three children of Bill Blizzard, the leader of the "Red Neck Army" at The Battle of Blair Mountain 1921. His grandparents were also long-time labor activists. His mother, "Ma Blizzard," was well known for her support of miners during the Cabin Creek-Paint Creek Mine War of 1912-13. He is the author of the 2004 book, "When Miners March." He spent his life working as a journalist, photographer and labor activist. In spring 2008 Charleston filmmaker Kelley Thompson interviewed him for over an hour for his film, "The Widen Project," using a small portion in that film. When Blizzard died in December 2008, he decided to use the footage to make a film about a man who spent almost a century fighting for West Virginia's miners. The film opens with him singing one of his favorite songs, "On Moonlight Day." Fellow Charleston Gazette workers James Haught and Paul Nyden talk about his many years working at the Gazette. Gordon Simmons, a labor historian, talks about the meaning of Blizzard's life and work. Wess Harris, publisher of "When Miners March," talks about his "discovery" of Blizzard and his friendship with him. Narrated by Ross Ballard II, creator of the audio book version of "When Miners March." Bob Webb provided the music for the film. Access: [Kelley Thompson, killer64@suddenlink.net](mailto:killer64@suddenlink.net), 304-344-1990 (home)

### **COAL COUNTRY**

2009 90 mins. Evening Star Productions

Mari-Lynn Evans, a native of Bulltown, Braxton County, West Virginia returns to her native state from Akron, Ohio after producing the three-part series, "The Appalachians." Phylis Geller, the director of "The Appalachians," interviews many of the people who have waged a war against uncontrolled coal mining called "mountaintop removal mining."

Interviews include leading WV public servant Ken Hechler and long-time opponent of stripmining, musician Kathy Mattea, Judy Bonds and many others.

On the other side, the film opens in Williamson at a summer party paid for by Massey Energy. Many people who support MTR including Bill Raney, the president of the WV Coal Association, the president of the National Coal Association, and people who are involved in restoring MTR sites so that they can be used by both people and animals are also interviewed. This film on MTR shows "both sides" more than any previous film on the hotly contested issue.

The film will be released in summer 2009 along with a book edited by Shirley Stewart Burns and a CD of original music. Contact – Mari-Lynn Evans at MLEvansESP@aol.com

### **BLACK LUNG – A HISTORY**

2009 28 mins. MSHA

Using MSHA footage, West Virginia State Archives footage and other sources, the story of a 1960's populist West Virginia uprising is told in cinema-verite style. Interviews with several miners with black lung are mixed with comments by many of the West Virginia experts on coal mine safety of the period to tell a compelling story of their success fighting their own union under President Tony Boyle, the West Virginia Legislature and ultimately the U.S. Congress. Their victory was The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. Congressman Ken Hechler, the main author of the law, is shown addressing miners in Kanawha County, attacking doctors used by coal companies to negate the effects of coal dust. Interviews with Drs. Rasmussen, Hawey Wells, and I.E. Buff show how they tested miners for black lung and testified to the WV Legislature and U.S. Congress. Other key activists interviewed include Davitt McAteer, the Assistant Secretary of Labor of Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health at the United States Department of Labor, Cecil Roberts, now the president of the UMWA, and Craig Robinson, a VISTA volunteer at the time. Access: The DVD is available from <Taylor.Sharon@dol.gov>, 304-256-3257, MSHA Printing & Training Materials Distribution.

### **WEST VIRGINIA –A FILM HISTORY**

2009 (1995) West Virginia Humanities Council

On June 20, 2009, The West Virginia Humanities Council released the DVD version of this film series that was originally broadcast on WVPBS in 1995. **Directed, written and co-produced by Mark Samels, executive producer of PBS' "The American Experience."**

Time Varies 1995 WNPB-TV

This portrait documents historical events from the state's first inhabitants to the present day and follows the contributions of the men and women who shaped the state's cultural, economic, and political landscapes. Using paintings, still photographs and motion picture clips, the series helps students explore what it means to be a West Virginian. Narrated by Richard Thomas. . Series include: PART I: A HIDDEN LAND - 73 M. - Opens with the Shawnee Indians who have lived undiscovered for centuries along the Ohio River. We watch as their lives are slowly changed by the arrival of white settlers into the Shenandoah and Potomac valleys. As British settlements grow, the French also in forces to claim land. The result is bitter warfare that engulfs the area of decades, resulting in the Indians' departure from their land. Along the way, we meet such figures as Celoron de Blainville, George Washington, Andrew Lewis, Mary Ingles, Lord Dunmore, Chief Logan, Chief Cornstalk, and Betty Zane. PART II: STATE OF WAR (Late 1700s-1865) - 73 M. - Begins in the late 1700s and takes us through the Civil War. Covering the growth of religion, industry, and transportation routes during the post-war years, this section explores the regional culture of western Virginia. It concludes with the divisive war and the subsequent birth of the new state of West Virginia. Key people in Part II, include circuit rider Francis Asbury, Alexander Campbell, writers David Hunter and Strother and Rebecca Harding, John Brown, General "Stonewall" Jackson, Senators Waltman Wiley and John S. Carlile, Anna Jarvis and President Lincoln. PART III: WEST VIRGINIA (1865-1913) - 120 M. - Covers West Virginia from he end of the Civil War to the beginning of unionization and the coal wars in 1913. It tells of the internal migration of blacks to the state and the missionary zeal of those determined to help hem; of the infamous Hatfield-McCoy feud; and of the Industrial Revolution. The Railroad sweeps through the state, bringing immigrant workers in and taking natural resources and money out. By the turn of the century, coal is king and miners are left fighting for a degree of freedom and independence. During the dynamic period in West Virginia's history, we meet such personalities as educators Nathan Cook Brackett and Sarah Jane Foster, railroad and business tycoons Henry Gassaway Davis and Collis Potter Huntington, the legendary Hatfields and McCoys, independent mine operator John Cooper, and union organizers Frank Kenney, Fred Mooney and Mother Jones. PART IV: ALMOST HEAVEN (1913-Present) - 120 M. - Opens on the Matewan Massacre and the Battle of Blair Mountain. Under the leadership of John L Lewis, miners' unions seek growth. However, with the onset of the Depression, the fall of the post-war coal market, and the mechanization of the mines, West Virginia's communities and inhabitants suffer great poverty. We watch as figures such as Eleanor Roosevelt and President Johnson work to improve the living conditions in Appalachian West Virginia. Despite hardships, West Virginians emerge as a courageous and determined people who take great pride in their state. Figures encountered in this final section of the film include union loyalist Sid Hatfield, Sheriff Don Chafin, UMWA leader John L. Lewis, social worker Mary Behner, Eleanor Roosevelt, the talented musicians of "It's Wheeling Steel," John F. Kennedy, Governors William Marland, Wally Baron and Senator Robert Byrd. Access:

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/WestVirginiaHumanitiesCounc/OnlinePurchase.html>

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## 2008 films on WV/Appalachian Labor History

### WIDEN FILM PROJECT

2008 55 mins. Killer Productions

Charleston filmmaker Kelley Thompson was hired in 2006 by the Central Appalachia Empowerment Zone to interview Clay Countians, filming their memories. He found that many recalled life in Widen, the famous company town built by J.G. Bradley who was a national and state coal mining leader. He also learned about the 1952 U.M.W.A. strike at Widen. He interviewed William C. Blizzard, son of the union leader Bill Blizzard, Gordon Simmons, president of the WV Labor History Assn. and others about the strike. (Julia Baker wrote "Up Molasses Mountain" based on her father's memories of the time.) The film covers other areas including the Buffalo Creek & Gauley Railroad, and sports history with legendary coach Bobby Stover. The world premiere of the film took place at The South Charleston Museum May 10 @ 7 PM co-sponsored by SCM and the WV Labor History Association. Access – Kelley Thompson, [killer64@suddenlink.net](mailto:killer64@suddenlink.net), 304-344-1990 (home)

### MONONGAH REMEMBERED

2008 30 mins. Peter Argentine Productions Inc.

Pittsburgh filmmaker Peter Argentine directed this film about the greatest loss of life as the result of a coalmine disaster in American history. On December 6, 1907, the Monongah Mine Disaster took place in the small Harrison County town outside Fairmont. He includes information about a visit by two Italian delegations from two regions in Italy, Calabria and Molise, where many of the miners who were killed grew up. Argentine is trying to raise funds to expand the film to an hour. If you are interested, visit his website at - [www.argentineproductions.com](http://www.argentineproductions.com). Website for the film - <http://www.monongahmovie.com/>  
Access for DVD: Website.

### 30 DAYS – WORKING IN A COAL MINE

2008 55 mins. FX Cable

West Virginia native son and famous filmmaker Morgan Spurlock stars in the opening episode of his FX Cable series, "30 Days" that premiered on June 3, 2008. He returned to Southern West Virginia where he stayed with an underground mine supervisor, working the regular day shift for 30 days as a "red hat." He also takes a little time to socialize with the

miners and their families, and briefly explores the problems of mountaintop removal mining and the destruction of both the environment and the coal miners' health. FX website - <http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/30days/episodeguide.php>. Access: Amazon download.

## **FACES OF BLACK LUNG**

2008 13.5 mins. CDC/NIOSH

In the last decade, over 10,000 miners have died of coal workers' pneumoconiosis, or what is commonly called black lung disease. Black lung disease, which is caused by inhaling coal mine dust, results in scarring of the lungs and emphysema, shortness of breath, disability, and premature death. While the prevalence of black lung disease had decreased by about 90% from 1969 to 1995 following the enactment of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, the downward trend of this disease in coal miners has stopped. Since 1995, the prevalence of black lung cases has more than doubled. Many current underground miners (some as young as in their 30s) are developing severe and advanced cases. Identification of advanced cases among miners under age 50 is of particular concern, as they were exposed to coal-mine dust in the years after implementation of the disease prevention measures mandated by the 1969 federal legislation. An increased risk of pneumoconiosis has also been associated with work in certain mining jobs, in smaller mines, in several geographic areas, and among contract miners. This film presents these facts plus interviews two contemporary miners who have fallen victim to this disease. Access: Anita L. Wolfe, (304) 285-6263, [awolfe@cdc.gov](mailto:awolfe@cdc.gov)

## **MOTHER JONES – THE MOST DANGEROUS WOMAN IN AMERICA**

2007 23 mins. Mother Jones Museum

Mother Jones Museum Rosemary Feurer and Laura Vazquez, two professors at Northern Illinois University, directed this first complete film about one of America's greatest leaders. The 23-minute film includes the only film footage of her, speaking on her "100th birthday." Elliot Gorn, author of the definitive biography on Mother Jones, "Mother Jones—The Most Dangerous Woman in America," talks about her amazing life. The West Virginia Labor History Assn. inducted her into its WV Labor Hall of Honor in 1980, only second to native son Walter Reuther. She was active in West Virginia, being arrested several times. The film won First Place in the Documentary Division at the Geneva Cultural Arts Commission Film Festival. Access - <http://motherjonesmuseum.org/>

## **HILLBILLY – THE REAL STORY**

2007 120 mins. Moore Huntley Productions

The original title of this film was “Appalachia – America’s First Frontier.” The staff at The History Channel renamed it. It premiered on Sunday, September 2, 2007 at 8 PM on The History Channel. Wess Harris, publisher of William C. Blizzard’s landmark book, “When Miners March,” and Ross Ballard III, who produced the audiobook version of the book, provided research for this film. William C. Blizzard is interviewed about the role his father played in the Battle of Blair Mountain and Ballard explains some of its meaning. It discusses the largest civil insurrection since the Civil War -- the Battle for Blair Mountain in the violent West Virginia coalfields in 1921, when a self-proclaimed Redneck Army of 10,000 coal miners fought for their right to organize. Access: The History Channel store. <http://shop.history.com/detail.php?a=115530>

## **MONONGAH HEROINE**

2007 25 mins. Lower 40 Films

Gina Martino Dahlia of Fairmont, the acting chairwoman of the broadcast news sequence and a senior lecturer at West Virginia University’s Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism, produced the half-hour film about her home community where she presently lives. She remembers and honors the widows and children who were left following the disaster. Access – *WVU School of Journalism* - [gmartino@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:gmartino@mix.wvu.edu) , 304-293-3505 ext. 5407

## **A NEW BEGINNING**

2007 5 Mins. Lively Heart Productions

A short film on the West Virginia Public Workers Union – United Electrical Workers Local 170. State, county, and municipal workers in West Virginia brought the only union controlled by the rank and file to the state in spring 2007, marking a new chapter in organizing blue and white collar government workers. Terry Lively, a member of UE Local 170, and president of the West Virginia Filmmakers Guild, began a new film about contemporary unions in the state. Access: [Vandalia@vandalia-productions.com](mailto:Vandalia@vandalia-productions.com).

## **THE BATTLE OF 5668**

2007 54 mins. Shawn Bennett

Shawn Bennett grew up in Parkersburg, studying film at Pittsburgh Filmmakers and studying under Julia Reichert (“Union Maids.”) His father Joe worked at The Ravenswood Aluminum plant for years, and was part of the famous lock-out that took place for almost two years starting in 1990. Using historic footage, TV news broadcasts, and interviews with people who took part in one of the most important labor struggles in recent American history, he presents a compelling story of global capitalism vs. devoted workers. The United Steelworkers and

fellow union members traveled around the country and world, protesting the inhumanity of the corporate leaders in a model campaign for justice. Marc Rich, an international criminal pardoned by President Clinton during his last day in office, was the man at the top. Now distributed by The Cinema Guild -

[http://cinemaguild.com/catalog/index.html?http%3A//www.cinemaguild.com/mm5/merchant.mvc%3FScreen%3DSRCH%26Store\\_Code%3DTCGS](http://cinemaguild.com/catalog/index.html?http%3A//www.cinemaguild.com/mm5/merchant.mvc%3FScreen%3DSRCH%26Store_Code%3DTCGS).

#### **WEST VIRGINIA AUTHOR – SHAWN BENNETT**

2007 25 mins. WVLC

Host Gordon Simmons interviews Shawn Bennett, the director of the new WV labor documentary, “The Battle of Local 5668.” Bennett talks about his father and family in Parkersburg. His father worked for years at the Ravenswood Aluminum plant including during the lock-out shown in his film. He also talks about spending several years making the film, commuting from his Hollywood job where he is currently trying to organize members of his profession. *Access: Steve Fesenmaier*

#### **WEST VIRGINIA AUTHOR – KENNETH FONES-WOLF**

2007 30 min. WVLC Library Television Network

Host Gordon Simmons interviews WVU professor Kenneth Fones-Wolf about his new book, “Glass Towns - Industry, Labor, and Political Economy in Appalachia, 1890-1930s” ( University of Illinois Press) Description from the book’s website - One of the central questions facing scholars of Appalachia concerns how a region so rich in natural resources could end up a symbol of poverty. Typical culprits include absentee landowners, reactionary coal operators, stubborn mountaineers, and greedy politicians. In a deft combination of labor and business history, Glass Towns complicates these answers by examining the glass industry’s potential to improve West Virginia’s political economy by establishing a base of value-added manufacturing to complement the state’s abundance of coal, oil, timber, and natural gas. Through case studies of glass production hubs in Clarksburg, Moundsville, and Fairmont (producing window, tableware, and bottle glass, respectively), Ken Fones-Wolf looks closely at the impact of industry on local populations and immigrant craftsmen. He also examines patterns of global industrial restructuring, the ways workers reshaped workplace culture and political action, and employer strategies for responding to global competition, unreliable markets, and growing labor costs at the end of the nineteenth century. *Access:*

WVLC Library Television Network homepage -  
<http://librarycommission.lib.wv.us/html/videoserver/ltn/wvauthor.html>.

*The program can be watched using WV public library computers as a streaming video. Copies can also be obtained on DVD by contacting Mark Lanham, WVLC Television Services, [marcus@wvlc.lib.wv.us](mailto:marcus@wvlc.lib.wv.us)*

## **REMEMBER OWENS-ILLINOIS 1921-2007 (TIME GOES BY, 57<sup>TH</sup> ST. & MAC CORKLE AVE. NORTH, 1921-2007)**

2007 35 mins. Joe Hodges

A second glass plant existed right across the street from LOF on MacCorkle Ave. SE in the Kanawha City section of Charleston. This plant became the largest producer of glass bottles in the world by the 1930s. In 1917, just one year after the LOF plant was founded, the Owens-Illinois Company began manufacturing fruit jars, jars for industrial products, and after Prohibition ended, beer bottles. This film tells the story of WV native son Michael Joseph Owens, the inventor of the bottle-making machine that revolutionized the glass industry worldwide. Photos of workers are shown, and videotape-showing reunions are included. The plant closed in 1963. Many workers at this plant would walk across the street and work at the LOF plant *when things were slow*. Access: Joseph D. Hodges, 5426 Lancaster Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304, 925-1819, [joe1819@suddenlink.net](mailto:joe1819@suddenlink.net) or David Radford, 2950 Pine St., Belle, WV, 595-1090. The WV State Archives has copies of both films LOF and OI films, made available to researchers. Copies of both LOF and OI glass factory films should be available from WVLC and KCPL in summer 2009.

## **A COAL TRAIL**

2007 53 min. Cadiz/Hicks Production Five parts. 1. A slide show with music of the National Coal Heritage Area. 2. Gordon Simmons 25 minute interview with Mr. Hicks on Simmons' cable show, "WV Author". 3. A few scenes from his proposed feature film, "A Flaming Rock." 4. Mining Reflections. 5. A slide show of Caretta and other coal camps around War, McDowell County. Access: More info on the DVD "A Coal Trail" and the coming feature, "A Flaming Rock" can be found at the film's website - [www.aflamingrock.com](http://www.aflamingrock.com). Contact Mr. Hicks for a personal visit, etc. at - [enie31@aol.com](mailto:enie31@aol.com) 937-258-2306

## **A FLAMING ROCK! COAL**

2007 61 mins. Cadiz/Hicks Productions This is a second film made by Enoch Hicks and Ellery E. Cadiz. Hicks grew up in War, McDowell County where this film had its world premiere at its annual Fall Festival. The film has 15 chapters that cover everything from the

origin of coal to a tribute for a miner's family servicemen. Additional short films cover a history of mining safety, a history of mining machinery, a simulated mine explosion, and a portrait of War, WV. Access: [www.aflamingrock.com](http://www.aflamingrock.com) Contact Mr. Hicks for a personal visit, etc. at - [enie31@aol.com](mailto:enie31@aol.com) 937-258-2306

## **COAL CAMP MEMORIES**

2006 78 mins. WV Enterprises

Well-known West Virginia actress Karen Vuranch has been performing her one-person play about the lives of women who grew up in Appalachia's coal camps during the first part of the twentieth century around the state, country, and world. In 2006, she filmed her performance at the Hulett C. Smith Theater at The Tamarack Center in Beckley, WV. Using photos from the George Bragg Collection and music by live performers, she presents the viewer with the life of Hallie Marie, first as an exuberant ten-year-old, demure teenager, young wife, and finally an old woman. Vuranch also has done presentations as novelist Pearl S. Buck, labor activist Mother Jones, humanitarian Clara Barton, Indian captive Mary Draper Ingles, Civil War soldier and spy Emma Edmunds, Irish pirate Grace O'Malley and Wild West outlaw Belle Starr. The WV Labor History Association sponsored the world premiere of the film on Feb. 3, 2007 at The La Belle Theater in South Charleston. Teacher's website at - <http://www.coalcampmemories.com/> Access – WV Enterprises at <http://www.wventerprises.com/>

## **WHEN MINERS MARCH**

2006 7 discs Mountain Whispers.com

William C. Blizzard, the son of Bill Blizzard, the “general” of the Battle of Blair Mountain, with the assistance of Wess Harris, compiled his many accounts of the West Virginia Mine Wars in his book, “When Miners March.” He had written most of the book for various labor publications anonymously in the 1950s. In 2005 Ross Ballard took the book and turned it into a monumental “audio movie,” complete with sound effects and original music. Songs on the special CD are by T. Paige Dalporto, Elaine Purkey, Hazel Dickens, Mike Morningstar, John Lilly and the Irish duo of Enda Cullen and Ian Smith. Access: <http://www.mountainwhispers.com/MWGiftShop.htm>.

## **HARLAN COUNTY, USA**

2006 (DVD), 1976 103 mins. Criterion

Barbara Kopple came to Appalachia to study at Morris Harvey College –now the University of Charleston. While starting a film about Arnold Miller and the Miners for Democracy Movement a strike became very intense at the Brookside Mine of the Eastover Mining

Company in Harlan County, Kentucky in June 1973. Kopple shows the history of coal mining – the many deaths, the conflicts, and for the first time in this film – the role women played in a strike. Dave Morris, Hazel Dickens, and other Appalachian musicians provide the music for the film. It won the Oscar for Best Documentary in 1977 and has become a landmark film, influencing the entire field of filmmaking. A docu-drama version starring Holly Hunter was made in 2000 called “Harlan County War.” The film was restored and premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. Extras on the DVD include an update, “The Making of Harlan County USA,” out-takes, and interviews with Hazel Dickens and John Sayles. *Access: Amazon.com, general distribution.*

### **THE CC BOYS: A WEST VIRGINIA LEGACY**

2006 30 mins. Historic Beverly Preservation Inc.

Robert C. Whetsell and Gerald Milnes, who first worked together on “The Cliff-Scaling Soldiers of West Virginia” (2005), have produced another film about lost WV history. During the 1930s, thousands of “boys in green” worked on projects all over the state for the Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC) They built state parks, planted trees, and did many other things that made the state a much better place to live. Mr. Whetsell was made a “WV History Hero” in March 2006 at The Cultural Center. Mr. Milnes was chosen as 2006 WV Filmmaker of the Year. *Access: Augusta Heritage <http://www.augustaheritage.com/store.html>*

### **THE APPALACHIANS – SERIES**

2005 180 mins. Evening Star Productions

Mari-Lynn Evans, executive producer, was born and raised in Bulltown, Braxton County, West Virginia. After more than two decades producing hundreds of health and other films, she returns home to her beloved Appalachia. The four parts are 1. First Frontier, Pre-History – 1870 – Native Americans, European pioneers, Civil War; 2. Barons, Feuds & White Lightning, 1871-1929 – feuds, timber and coal, labor wars, moonshine and roaring 1920s; 3. Boom & Bust, 1929-1965 – Great Depression, WWII, migration in 1950s, War on Poverty; 4. Memories in a Modern World, 1965-present – legacy, music, land in conflict (MTR), people and future of Appalachia. The Sierra Club, a sponsor, has built a good website for the series – <http://www.sierraclub.org/appalachia>. Random House published a book in conjunction with the series, edited by Ms. Evans, *The Appalachians*. *Access: Amazon, Sierra Club, etc. All WV public libraries have a copy.*

### **WEST VIRGINIA AUTHOR – WILLIAM C. BLIZZARD AND WESS HARRIS**

2005 30 min. WVLC Library Television Network

Host Gordon Simmons interviews William C. Blizzard, the author of "When Miners March," and the son of West Virginia labor leader Bill Blizzard. Also interviewed is the publisher of the book, Wess Harris, a board member of the West Virginia Labor History Association. Mr. Blizzard, who died in January 2009, had recently turned 92. During the interview, he talks about his life, particularly about writing the columns for Labor Daily that were combined to make the book. Wess Harris talks about his "rescue" of Mr. Blizzard, finding him living in a trailer house in Winfield, Putnam County several years ago. Mr. Blizzard briefly remembers his grandparents who were some of the first labor activists in the southern coal fields, starting in Fayette County, eventually moving to the Cabin Creek area of Kanawha County. This interview is historic given Mr. Blizzard's extensive firsthand knowledge of the coal wars that involved three generations of Blizzards. *Access: WVLC Library Television Network homepage - <http://librarycommission.lib.wv.us/html/videoserver/ltn/wvauthor.html>*

*The program can be watched using WV public library computers as a streaming video. Copies can also be obtained on DVD by contacting Mark Lanham, WVLC Television Services, [marcus@wvlc.lib.wv.us](mailto:marcus@wvlc.lib.wv.us)*

### **THE KINGMAKER- DON BLANKENSHIP**

2005                      30 mins.    WVPBS

Reporter Anna Sale narrates this investigation of Don Blankenship, the president of Massey Energy. Blankenship told the Charleston press he considered the report to be balanced. Others think that it is not accurate because the damage he has done to the environment and workers' health is minimized. He is famous for buying union mines, closing them, and reopening them as non-union. He is best known for financing the campaign against Supreme Court Justice Warren McGraw in fall 2004, spending millions of dollars. ( This is shown in detail in Wayne Ewing's film, "The Last Campaign.") Appalshop footage of his early days is used, and various supporters present positive opinions about this management style and contributions to southern WV communities. Various reporters and detractors are also interviewed. The fact that he even threatened to sue WVPBS is noted. *Access:* [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykNMQZXfc\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykNMQZXfc_o)

### **LABOR IN THE MOUNTAINS**

2005                      55 mins.                      WVU Institute for Labor Studies and Research

This film tells the history of labor in West Virginia from the viewpoint of a retired worker who lived through much of that history. A grandfather answers questions about labor unions from his teen-age granddaughter. The video is divided into two parts of roughly the same length. The first part is introduced by the grandfather as he attempts to explain what labor unions are, and how they came into being in West Virginia. This part begins with the role of union

workers in support of the formation of the state during the Civil War, goes through the Great Uprising and General Strike in 1877, and into the story of coal miners and their struggles for justice and fair treatment in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the rise of the United Mine Workers of America. It then shifts to the challenges faced by workers in other industries in the state as they also organized. The second part involves interviews from a range of current labor leaders who comment on how organized labor essentially built the middle-class in West Virginia through organizing and collective bargaining, in coal and other basic industries. They discuss how workers achieved both economic and political power through their unions. With the arrival of deindustrialization and the considerable loss of industrial jobs in West Virginia, organized labor has shifted much of its base into service-providing jobs and into the public sector at the state and local government levels. The interviewed leaders discuss these trends and end with comments on their concerns about the challenges facing working families in West Virginia in the immediate future. Harry E. Lester, recently retired director of United Steel Workers of America District 2 and who is originally from Bud, WV, in the state's southern coalfields, plays the grandfather. His real life granddaughter, Elizabeth Lester, plays herself in the video. It may be the first history of labor for children ever put on film. Access: *Available as VHS or DVD, \$5 from Labor in the Mountains Foundation, ILSR/WVU, 719 Knapp Hall, Morgantown WV 26506.*

## **THE LAST CAMPAIGN**

2005            107 minutes Wayne Ewing Productions

A unique documentary that combines footage from Mr. Ewing's first film, "If Elected" (1972) that profiled WV politician Warren McGraw's Raleigh County race against coalmine owner Tracy Hylton with footage of McGraw's primary and general election races in 2004. The overwhelming power of corporate money in contemporary elections is shown. McGraw beat Hylton when he was outspent 10 to 1. In 2004 he lost when he was outspent 100 to 1. These funds were spent airing the meanest attack ads in American political history. Access: <http://www.thelastcampaign.com/>

## **STORIES FROM THE MINES**

2004 57 mins.    United Studios of America

This film dramatizes and documents Pennsylvania's anthracite coal miner's role in influencing the relationship between organized labor, organized wealth and the United States government. The program shows how American labor policies and practices were permanently affected by the volatile relationship between immigrant coal miners of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the industrialists who employed them. Re-enactments and historical footage are combined. Filmed on historical locations. Website - <http://www.aptonline.org/catalog.nsf/GenreLookup/A561F47E25B2B94885256C440059138E>.

Historical characters include Clarence Darrow, Access – <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/presssite/metadata.epl?mode=synopsis&bookkey=231727>

## **REMEMBER LIBBEY-OWENS-FORD GLASS 1915-2004 (REMEMBER MAC CORKLE AVE & 57<sup>TH</sup> STREET)**

2004 55 mins. Joe Hodges

In 1915, the founder of Libbey-Owens came to Charleston and purchased the land in Kanawha City that would be the home to the world's largest maker of sheet glass. The plant operated from 1916 to 1980. It was demolished in 1982. It is said that the demolition of the 12 tall chimneys is a world record. This film is a compilation of photographs and videotaped interviews with retirees of the plant. The film has 21 chapters. Joe Hodges of Kanawha City videotaped the photos, adding identifications when he could. A visit by U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, running for president, is documented. One of the most interesting chapters shows how homes that still exist were once used by employees of LOF including managers, glasscutters, and more. The film also shows how various pieces of the plant have been re-used in homes and yards in the area including the well-known chunks of slag glass. *Access: Joseph D. Hodges, 5426 Lancaster Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304, 925-1819 or David Radford, 2950 Pine St., Belle, WV, 595-1090. The WV State Archives has copies of both films LOF and OI films, made available to reseachers. Copies of both LOF and OI glass factory films should be available from WVLC and KCPL in summer 2009.*

## **MINE WARS – THE COAL MINERS WAR FOR FREEDOM**

2004 57 mins. Bill Richardson Productions

Williamson, Mingo County, West Virginia filmmaker Bill Richardson directed this film about the Southern coal mine wars of the 1920s. Key events such as The Battle of Blair Mountain and the Matewan Massacre are analyzed and the influence these events had on national attitudes toward coal mining and labor unions is presented. The West Virginia Film Series sponsored by The South Charleston Museum began with the world premiere of this film in August 2004. *Access: Bill Richardson, WVU Extension Office, Mingo County Courthouse, Room 3, Williamson, WV 25661, (304) 235-0370, e-mail - Bill.Richardson@mail.wvu.edu.*

## **THE PENNSYLVANIA MINERS STORY**

2003 120 mins. Disney

One of the most dramatic recent stories of rescue actually happened in a coalmine in summer 2002. Disney produced this docu-drama of the “nine for nine” miners. The film was shot in real mines in Somerset County, PA, including the real-life Quecreek mine. Some parts were recreated on a sound studio. For 77 hours, they were trapped and everyone thought they would die. The world held their collective breaths as people dug down into the flooded mine,

using a special piece of equipment based in Beckley's MSHA safety academy. Access: Amazon or any source. Available on DVD June 24, 2003. (Shot in real mines and recreated on a soundstage to show the life-threatening dangers and physical limitations the men faced. The movie was shot in many of the actual locations in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, including scenes at the real-life Quecreek mine.) Access: *DVD for sale at Amazon.com, etc.*

## **Classic WV labor films**

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### **THE ROCK THAT BURNS –A SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COALFIELDS**

1997 Four parts W.Va. Documentary Consortium & Spectra Media, Inc.

Gary Simmons, a South Charleston raised filmmaker, and Dr. C. Stuart McGehee, chairman of the history department at West Virginia State University and director of the Eastern Regional Coal Archives located in Bluefield, WV at the Craft Memorial Library created this four part series presenting a “positive” view of life in the coalfields.

Episode One – 27 minutes. Describes the value to societies of coal as a fuel over the centuries, how the Southern West Virginia coalfields were opened up, the hardships faced by the early coal operators, and the impact of these coalfields on a growing nation.

Episode Two – 28 minutes. Shows life underground, how coal was mined, who mined it, and why, even though it was dark dirty dangerous work, mining was looked upon by many as a satisfying occupation that gave them a future in America. It includes reminiscences by those who lived the mining life.

Episode Three – 28 minutes. This film portrays life in company towns; the unique form of society created by the coal industry and reminisces from those who grew up in company town. Also covered are the company store, schools, the popularity of baseball, and the freedom that Afro-Americans experienced there.

Episode Four – 27 minutes. Covers mining in the 20th century, the quest for unionization, the mine wars, and the introductions of mechanization that ended the hand-loading era. It also studies the popular myths concerning scrip and indebtedness to the company store, as well as exploring what miners were really paid for their hard labor.

Websites – Eastern Regional Coal Archives - <http://craftmemorial.lib.wv.us/Coal%20Archives.htm>

Access: WVLC has VHS copies of the four programs.

### **PULP FICTION, POISON PROMISES**

1995 14 min. Mimi Pickering of Appalshop was hired to direct a film about the proposed pulp mill to be built at Apple Grove, Mason County. The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation paid for the film that explores the dangers that the pulp mill would present – to the workers and the local environment including dumping dioxin into the Ohio River. Many groups, both labor and environmental, opposed the mill, supported by Gov. Caperton and the Legislature. Eventually, the mill was not built. The film also examines the impact that the company's pulp mill had in the area around Monroe, AL. The film was broadcast on WV television several times. Access: Steve Fesenmaier has a VHS copy.

### **JUSTICE IN THE COALFIELDS**

1995 58 M. VHS Appalshop  
Examines the United Mine Workers' strike against the Pittston Coal Company that raises fundamental questions about the legal rights of unions and the nature of justice for unionized workers. Access: Appalshop

### **FIGHTING FOR A BREATH**

1995 29 M. VHS Appalshop  
Profiles one of the lay representatives who have continued to help coal miners seeking black lung benefits in the face of overwhelming odds. Access: Appalshop

### **ORGANIZING AMERICA - A HISTORY OF TRADE UNIONS**

1994 38 minutes Cambridge Educational

Using interviews, personal accounts, and archival footage, this program investigates the major events in the history of American trade unions, from the formation of the first “friendly societies” in the 18th century, to the challenges posed by new technologies in the 1980s and 90s. Important issues such as minimum wages, health and safety conditions, discrimination, benefits, job security, and strikes are addressed. Veterans of labor struggles, labor historians, and business and government officials reveal fascinating personal insights into labor's sometimes violent origins, and how its influences have changed the workplace over the past

200 years. Made in Charleston, WV. Interviews including WV labor scholars including Dr. Fred Barkey. Access: WVLC on VHS, *Cambridge Educational*, [http://cambridge.films.com/id/10010/Organizing\\_America\\_The\\_History\\_of\\_Trade\\_Unions.htm](http://cambridge.films.com/id/10010/Organizing_America_The_History_of_Trade_Unions.htm)

## **SIT DOWN AND FIGHT – WALTER REUTHER AND THE RISE OF THE AUTO WORKERS UNION**

1992 55 mins. PBS

In 1936, Walter Reuther, a native of Wheeling, WV, led one of the bitterest, bloodiest battles fought in the history of the American labor movement.

By sitting down and stopping the machinery of factory production, auto workers forced the Big Three to recognize their union. GM tried turning off the heat and blocking food deliveries and Ford sent members of their private security force to beat up UAW officials, but workers stood their ground. Access: WVLC has a VHS copy

## **ROVING PICKETS**

28 M. 1992 VHS Appalshop

Looks at the consequences of automation in the coal mining industry in eastern Kentucky: severely reduced wages, chronic unemployment, families divided by out-migration and in 1961 and 62, the cancellation of union health insurance benefits the threatened closing of the UMWA hospitals. All this stimulated President Johnson's interest in creating the "War on Poverty." Access: *Appalshop*

## **OUT OF DARKNESS: THE MINE WORKERS' STORY**

1991 100 M. VHS

An electrifying documentary by Academy-Award-winning director Barbara Kopple (Harlan County, USA) and award-winning video director and editor Bill Davis. Historical film footage and photographs are integrated with first-hand accounts of Mine Workers' history and of the recent battle with the Pittston Coal Group. Accompanied by a moving soundtrack created by Tom Juravich, this 100-minute film represents real life stories with a powerful, dramatic touch. Access: *WVLC*

## **COAL WARS: THE BATTLE IN RUM CREEK**

29 M. 1991 VHS . Kathleen Foster

In the tradition of Harlan County, USA, this documentary looks at the role women played in the 1989-90 coal strike in the Southern Appalachian coalfields. The location is Dehue - Logan County, WV. The miners and their wives are fighting one of the most intense battles since the

1920s. Clips from other films made about that era, along with photographs, are used to illustrate the conclusion - namely that "its workers again' bosses...forever!" *Access: WVLC*

## **MATEWAN**

1987 130 M. IFC Films

John Sayles, one of the leading independent directors in the world, came to WV in 1983 to film one of the most famous confrontations between laborer and owners in the town of Matewan, Mingo County, WV, 1920. It took him four years to finally finish the film, directing "Brother from another Planet" during that time period. Coal miners, struggling to form a union, are up against company operators and Baldwin-Felts agents. Black and Italian miners, brought in by the company to break the strike, are caught between the two forces. Union activist and ex-Wobbly Joe Kenehan (Chris Cooper), sent to help organize the union, determines to bring the local, black, and Italian groups together. Drawn from an actual incident; the characters of Sheriff Sid Hatfield (David Strathairn), Mayor Cabell Testerman (Josh Mostel), C. E. Lively (Bob Gunton), and Few Clothes Johnson were based on real people. James Earl Jones plays Few Clothes Johnson, a black coal miner who joins the union to stop massive abuses. The execution of Sheriff Hatfield on the steps of the McDowell County Courthouse steps by Baldwin-Felts agents led to the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain, the largest armed labor conflict in American history. Music by WV native Hazel Dickens. Nominated for an Oscar by Haskell Wexler for best cinematography. Filmed in Thurmond and the New River Gorge, WV. *Access: Amazon, etc.*

## **IN THE COMPANY'S HANDS**

1987 58 M. 1987 WSWP-TV

Jack Kelly directed, wrote and produced this comprehensive documentary about the Southern WV coal mine wars. It is narrated by Kelly and local actor Michael Martin who also acts in some of the recreations. Using archival footage, photographs, and historic songs, Kelly recreates the world of coal mining in the area. He interviews the descendants of people on both sides – the children of coal mine owners and the children of coal miners. Some of the people interviewed include black coal miner Sug Hawkins, Cecil Roberts (not UMWA president), and William Becker. The nephew of Tom Felts of the Baldwin-Felts Agency and a son of an owner are also interviewed. The film goes back to the first days of coal mining in WV, which started in 1871 in the New River area near Beckley. By 1896, 26 million tons of coal from the Pocahontas Field was being shipped all over the country to power the

developing industrial age. 14 millionaires lived in Brawell. Around 1900 many miners from Europe were brought to the coal fields, segregated in their own sections of the company towns. 80 % of all coal in WV was mined in company towns. The coal mine owners felt they had a divine right to do whatever was necessary to build their companies in “the wilderness.” Most of the film focuses on the struggle between miners and the oppressive reality of life in company towns where all behavior was closely controlled by the miner owners. Key events such as The Matewan Massacre and The Battle of Blair Mountain are analyzed. Dr. Fred Barkey, a well-known WV labor historian, and industry historian Dr. C. Stuart McGehee provided the historical information. Executive producer Donn Rogosin, station manager of WSWP-TV. *Access: Steve Fesenmaier on DVD, also WV State Archives*

### **MINE WAR ON BLACKBERRY CREEK**

1986 28 M. Appalshop

This is a document of the on-going strike of the UMWA coal miners against the A. T. Massey co., a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell and the Flour Corp. This is an intimate look at both workers and strikebreakers. This area of WV. is where mine wars have been fought since the 1920's. *Access: Appalshop*

### **MONONGAH 1907**

1986 29 mins. Arthur Young

While Davitt McAteer was the head of mine safety under President Clinton, he made this film. It tells the story of the struggle for mine safety in the U.S., focusing on the tragedy of Monongah, WV, in which 362 miners died. *Access – WVLC has a VHS copy. Contact Steve Fesenmaier, at WVLC, for information on access to DVD copies.*

### **EVEN THE HEAVENS WEEP**

1985 55 mins. WV PBS-TV

The story of the Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921, the largest armed labor conflict in American history. TV star Mike Connors narrates this classic story about the long and bloody history of coal in Appalachia. *Access: WVPBS TV. Debbie Oleksa West Virginia Public Broadcasting, Morgantown, 1- 888-596-9729.*

### **COMPANY TOWN**

1983 25 mins. Lost Nation Productions

Jim Rutenbeck began his professional career with this film. He now edits many of The American Experience films produced by WGBH-TV, shown nationally on PBS. His award-winning film, *Raise the Dead, ends in War*, McDowell County, West Virginia. The town of Widen, West Virginia (Clay County) was once a thriving coal mining community. Using interviews, photographs and old film footage, this film recounts the history of Widen and its paternal ruler, coal baron Joseph Gardner Bradley, 1882-1971. It is still considered to be one of the best film portraits of an Appalachian company coal town. *Access: Now available on DVD from Jim Rutenbeck, Lost Nation Pictures, 106 Oliver Road, Newton, MA 02468, (617) 969-6533, [jrutenbeck@gmail.com](mailto:jrutenbeck@gmail.com), \$19.95 including public performance rights.*

## **COAL MINING WOMEN**

1982 40 M. Appalshop

Experiences of women as they enter this traditionally male dominated field and the problems they encounter in their fight to end sex discrimination in the coalfields are related through interviews at home and at work in Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, West Virginia and Colorado. The historical place of women in the U.S. and European coalmines and the employment situation in Appalachia and the western coalfields where the economy is dominated by the coal industry. Women coal miners talk about their accomplishments, advantages and disadvantages for their chosen occupation including the compromise they face between their health and safety and the benefits of high wages. *Access: Appalshop*

## **WE DIG COAL**

1982 58 M. Cinema Guild

On October 2, 1979, Marilyn McCusker was killed working inside a deep coal mine in central Pennsylvania. It had taken her two years and a sex discrimination suit in federal court to get her job as a coal miner. This award-winning film has been called "the best documentary ever made on women in non-traditional occupations." *Access: 16 mm, WVLC*

## **BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE**

1981 59 M. 16MM/VHS Blue Ridge Mt. Films

NOTE: Contains Rough Language.

New Yorker filmmaker Ken Fink worked for two years in McDowell County as the filmmaker-in-residence for the schools system. He made this film after interviewing hundreds of coal miners. He eventually chose three of three different generations - a retired miner, a black

middle-aged miner, and a longhaired fellow who has left the mountains, only to return. They give their attitudes toward their profession, reflecting the deep frustrations involved. Partially funded by the Humanities Foundation of West Virginia and shown on WSWP TV. Shown at film festivals throughout the United States. A recent book, "Glass Castles" talks about these filmmakers coming to Welch, the county seat of McDowell County. *Access – VHS from WVLC and Icarus Films.*

## **PORTRAIT OF A COAL MINER**

1980 15 M. 16MM/VHS National Geographic

Before the recent tragedy in Ferrell No. 17, Madison, Boone County, filmmakers for National Geographic's new series, *Community Life In America*, made a film on the Marcum family. Marcus was charged with the deaths of several miners as a result of a gas explosion. Lawyers for the prosecuting attorney watched the film at The WV Cultural Center. Besides working as a shift manager Tom Marcum and family enjoy fishing and camping. Basic facts about coal mining are shown along with the lifestyle of coalmining families in WV. *Access: 16 mm only, WVLC*

## **THE OLDEST NEW RIVER**

1980? 21 M.

In 1980 Steve Fesenmaier and Ken Sullivan traveled to John Dragon's Class IV whitewater company on the New River. Dragon gave them a U-matic video copy of a recent TV show made in North Carolina about Thurmond. Fesenmaier and film archivist Richard Fauss worked together to have the film transferred to 16 mm film for showing around the state. Here is the description – A trip back in time to the early days of the New River Community, Thurmond, WV. Once a larger railroad town than Cincinatti, Thurmond and the local area was a booming coal mining region. Many of the buildings no longer exist. Slowly, the area is slipping into the growing forest. *See film "Thurmond."* *Access: 16 mm and VHS, WVLC*

## **WHAT PRICE COAL?**

1977 55 mins. PBS

WGBH-TV in Boston created this documentary as part of the series "Nova." Their description posted at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/listseason/04.html>. "What is the price we are prepared to pay for coal? NOVA looks at the environmental and health safety issues raised by the government, industry, and the victims." The film is an examination of mine safety, claims that light penalties and a shortage of inspectors make it difficult to enforce many regulations of the 1969 Coal Mine Health and Safety Act. Also noted: the link between black-lung disease

and coal dust; the industry's use of safety measures such as adequate mine lighting. Filmed at least partially in West Virginia. Access: WV State Archives

## **IF ELECTED**

1978 57 M. VHS/16MM Wayne Ewing

A complete look at the campaign of State Senator Warren McGraw. Gives evidence of the "hard campaign trail in the West Virginia coal fields." A close look at the issues, feelings and situations that affect the West Virginia political mind. Access: WVLC and Wayne Ewing

## **JOHN L. LEWIS**

1978 26 M.

This film presents the story of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, during a period of great improvement in labor's working conditions. It demonstrates the strike tactics he used to achieve improvements and includes footage of his conflicts with mine owners, the AFL, courts and governments. Access: WVLC, 16 mm.

## **NIMROD WORKMAN – TO FIT MY OWN CATEGORY**

1975 35 M. Appalshop

From the website - Nimrod Workman was born in 1895 and provided for a family of thirteen working in the coal mines of West Virginia. To Fit My Own Category is an extended visit at his home as he and his family prepare meals, build an addition to the house, dig for yellow root, swap jokes with the neighbors, and enjoy each other's company. Nimrod's reminiscences about coalmining, union organizing in the 1920s and '30s, and eighty-three years in the mountains are intercut with impromptu performances of the traditional ballads and original songs for which he won a National Heritage Award. This program will be of interest to students of labor and coalmining history, West Virginia history, folklore and music, and issues related to aging. Access - Appalshop

## **UMWA 1970: A HOUSE DIVIDED**

1971 14 M. B&W 16MM/VHS Appalshop

In 1970, W.A. (Tony) Boyle was president of the United Mine Workers of America, under indictment for misuse of union funds, and suspected of the murder of Jock Yablonski (the most outspoken advocate for reform of the union) and his family. UMWA 1970: A House Divided intercuts a speech given by Boyle at a miners' rally in Big Stone Gap, Virginia with scenes at a mine and interviews with working and disabled miners. The film contrasts Boyle's

statements with those of the reform movement then growing among the union rank and file. Recommended for classes in U.S. and labor history. Access: *WVLC*

### **COAL MINER: FRANK JACKSON**

1971 12 M. B&W 16MM/VHS Appalshop

Illustrates what it is like to have spent your entire life working in the coal mines. Frank Jackson discusses coal mining today and in other times, with scenes in and around the mines. Access: *Appalshop*

### **THE MOLLY MAGUIRES**

1970 124M.

Sean Connery stars in a story of a secret society of Irish coal miners in Pennsylvania, 1896. The miners are fighting the cruel company with murder and sabotage. The company hires a man to infiltrate the group. The man's loyalty to the company comes under severe challenge. Richard Harris, a well-known English actor, also stars. Directed by Martin Ritt with cinematography by legendary Hollywood worker James Wong Howe. Access: Amazon.com, etc.

### **VALLEY OF DARKNESS**

1970 20 M. 16MM/VHS Films, Inc.

NBC took a look at the Farmington Mine Disaster in Marion County. Sandy Vanocer visited the miners and widows of the men who died. Arch Moore and Ken Hechler are interviewed about coal mining. Such problems as black lung are discussed in depth. Access: *WVLC*

### **BLACK FURY**

1935 95 M. VHS

A brilliant, penetrating glimpse of the early days of labor unrest, **BLACK FURY** weaves a mesmerizing tale of life and death within the caverns of America's coal mining land. Joe Radek, a likeable, hard-working coal miner who single-handedly takes on the Company. When his best friend is brutally murdered by the henchmen, he decides to strike. He begins a lonely vigil deep in the coal mines - refusing to come out unless the Company gives their miners the privileges they deserve. In scene after scene of taut suspense and high drama, the world of the coal miner is searingly portrayed. Access: *Amazon, etc.*

## **WEST VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES LABOR FILMS – 5 mins. each**

**Audio/Video Files from the West Virginia State Archives.**

**Access: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/av.html>**

**Kaiser Aluminum, 1957**

**Walter Reuther at the West Virginia Centennial Celebration, 1963**

**Hominy Falls Mine Disaster, 1968**

**Farmington Mine Explosion, 1968**

**Black Lung Rally, 1969**

**UMWA Presidential Candidate Arnold Miller at Miners' Rally, 1972**

**Dedication of the Mine Health and Safety Academy, 1976**

## ***RESOURCES***

Tom Zaniello has published a book describing labor films from around the world – “Working Stiffs, Union Maids, Reds, and Riffraff” (2003) 350 films are described in detail. The DC Labor Film Fest has established a website listing labor film festivals around the world and compiled information on more than 1,000 labor films.

DC Labor Film Festival 2008 -

<http://www.dclabor.org/ht/display/ProgramDetails/i/23256>

Online Labor Film Database –

<https://laborfilms.dabbledb.com:443/page/laborfilms/ePjMknLk>

Online Labor Film Festival listing –

<https://laborfilms.dabbledb.com/page/laborfilms/oohjaYNX>

The University of California Berkeley Media Library has an extensive filmography on labor films at - <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/LaborVid.html>.

