January 5, 1945

Copper Commando - vol. 3, no. 10

Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.mtech.edu/copper_commando

Part of the American Politics Commons, History Commons, Mining Engineering Commons, Photography Commons, Place and Environment Commons, and the Rhetoric Commons

Recommended Citation
Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls, "Copper Commando - vol. 3, no. 10" (1945).
http://digitalcommons.mtech.edu/copper_commando/68

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Copper Commando at Digital Commons @ Montana Tech. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Issues, Copper Commando, World War II by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Montana Tech. For more information, please contact sjuskiewicz@mtech.edu.
The big news of 1944 was the invasion. In May you saw these pictures of
landing craft unloading supplies. Landing craft and their cargoes were
essential to success. You can count on it that the copper which was
mined in Butte, smelted at Anaconda and refined at Great Falls was used in the
construction of landing craft and the tools of war carried by them, pictures
of which you have seen throughout the year of 1944 in Copper Commando.

Commando Check List

You met the Labor
Management Committees........2
You visited the Mines........4
You went into the Shops........6
You saw the Offices & Labs....8
You toured the Brass Mills....10
You took to the Woods........11
You learned about Safety.....12
You went to the Anaconda Smelter in May to see three stirring war films put on by the Labor-Management Committee at the Washoe. Employees on the Hill and their families were invited as guests of the Committee and all performances were packed. Part of the labor and management group which aided in making the event a success is shown at the left; at the right, part of the audience seated in the theater just before the war films were shown.

You Met the Labor-Management Committees

This issue of Copper Commando is dedicated to a review of the year 1944.

We thought you would like to review with us the places you have toured in our pages during the past year, perhaps to renew acquaintance with the folks in the mines and smelters, in the shops and offices.

The big news of 1944, and of course we devoted our front cover to it, was the invasion. During 1944 we saw the tide turn in favor of the United Nations. So the front cover is devoted to this greatest of all news events. As Copper Commando goes to press, the war news looks brighter, but it is certain that we must all fight harder than we ever have before to bring the war to an early end.

Behind your Labor-Management newspaper is, naturally, the Labor-Management Committee. There are four such committees in Montana, composed of representatives of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company and delegates from the CIO and AFL. These four groups are located in Butte, Anaconda, Great Falls and East Helena. These committees are now well over two years old and they have contributed mightily to the production of vital metals from Montana which today are doing their great job in helping to win the war.

On these two pages we review some of the activities of the Labor-Management Committees. Let's go back and revisit these groups.

You saw the famous bomber, Hell's Angels, land at the Butte airport in April also, and here a number of the crew are being interviewed by the Labor-Management group which welcomed them. Old timers were out, too.
BACK in May, the Anaconda Labor-Management Committee sponsored a showing of war films to which employees at the Smelter and their wives and families were invited. The two top pictures on the opposite side show scenes taken at that affair. Butte had already held a showing of war films (the Butte Committee sponsored a similar showing of films in connection with the War Bond show in Butte on December 7 of this last year). In the second picture on the opposite page we see a group leaving the theater.

The various Labor-Management Committees co-operated with the Office of Civilian Defense in staging ceremonies at which the work of the Company and its employees was officially recognized by the government. In April we got a picture at Great Falls and you can see it on the opposite page. In the same month the crew of the great bomber, Hell's Angels, came to Butte and was warmly welcomed—those are Hell's Angels' scenes in the bottom pictures on the opposite page.

During the year labor played host to the management in Butte, and later, the labor members of the Butte Committee were entertained by Dan Kelly. In the top picture on this page we see a section of the Butte Committee—this picture was taken, as most of you will recall, in July.

Also in July both Butte and Anaconda were visited by Sergeant Charles E. (Commando) Kelly and Lieutenant Ernest Childers, two war heroes, who appeared in conjunction with the War Bond show staged by the Labor-Management Committee in collaboration with the Fox Theater management. At that time the Musicians' Union and the Stagehands' Union and many other groups from organized labor once again offered their services free to a worthy cause. Copper Commando, as the mouthpiece of the Labor-Management Committees, cannot too warmly express its appreciation to these groups of men. That's a view of the luncheon group at Anaconda which honored Commando Kelly and Lieutenant Childers in the second picture on this page. In the bottom picture at the right we find the active and progressive Great Falls group.

Anaconda Committee welcomed Herbert Hesley, left, of War Production Drive, Washington. He arrived at the Smelter to make awards for suggestions originating with workers.

This is a section of the Victory Labor-Management Production Committee at Butte, taken the evening of labor's party for management. Later the party was held at the Miners' Union Hall.

You got a close-up view in July of Commando Kelly and Lieutenant Childers when they visited the Smelter at Anaconda as guests of the Committee there. The luncheon was in their honor.

Last month you paid a visit to the Committee at the Great Falls Reduction Works. This group has done an outstanding job on wartime drives.

Here's a meeting of the General Committee.
You saw timber rolled from the station to the air raise.

You paid many visits with us to the Butte mines. Not only did we go underground many times, but we caught the men on surface as well. In March you went underground at the Tramway and in the picture at the top you saw Al Radmelich, shift boss, making way for Les Quinton, who was bringing in a load of timber from the station to the air raise. Down below we made a visit to a typical mine pay office in connection with our series called "Pay Day for John Doe." On the opposite page you may recall the visit you made underground to see how proper timbering is done. A short time later you went underground again to spend some time with the nippers. You visited many mines and read stories and saw pictures.

Close to the end of the year, we visited a typical mining community at the suggestion of one of the miner's wives and we took pictures of schools and churches and homes and children in an effort to show how nice a typical mining community really looks.

You visited all these places with us and we hope you enjoyed the visits as much as we did.

You learned during the year 1944 how the Pay Office, not only in Butte but in Anaconda and Great Falls as well, handled the pay checks for employees. First you visited the offices themselves and saw how the checks are made up on the International Business Machines. Then we went along to various mines, as you can see above, and followed the men as they came off shift, checking out and receiving their pay checks.
You went underground in January, if you will remember, when the story of how timbers are handled was covered in your Labor-Management newspaper. We went through all the various steps and stages and hope that you got a good idea of what the job was like. This is the last step shown above, where Harvey Wallace is shown lagging the set. Timbering, as we all know, is a very vital operation in mining. With lagging finished, the boys are ready to get out the ore.

You probably found the story of the tool lockers underground, which we wrote up for you in our March 31 issue, interesting and helpful—we hope you did. At that time we took this picture of Al Radmelich exchanging tools with George Olson, nippers at the Tramway. The nippers bring dull tools to the locker from working places.

This picture is another one that we took in August at the time we did the story “Pay Day for John Doe.” It is a companion picture to the two on the opposite page. You saw a lot of miners on that trip. Formerly it was necessary for the men to come to the Pay Office on Quartz Street to pick up their checks. Now a paymaster is sent to each mine and the men from the mines and shops receive checks at place of employment.

In this picture he was completing a staging in order to finish the timbering. You should have gotten a good idea of the steps in timbering.
You Went Into the Shops

In Butte, at the smelters at Anaconda and Great Falls, and at the Slag Treating Plant at East Helena, over the past year, you have made many friends among the craftsmen in the various shops. These are the maintenance men who, in time of peace or war, keep the supply lines to the mines and smelters open and moving.

It was June, you will recall, when you visited the Local Tram at Anaconda and saw how the boys there get the materials moved around. It is up to the Local Tramming Department there to move all materials about the Hill for the various departments—that's a picture of three of the boys above: "Bungo" Daily, Bob Parker and "Red" Nowlan, who had been called over to the engine shed to do some repairing on the engine shown. Not only does this Local Tramming Department do the moving, but it is responsible also for the bin crews who load and unload at the stock bins and the lime crusher.

There in the second picture you will probably remember seeing some of the boys who are the pipefitters at the Zinc Plant in Great Falls. You paid them a pleasant visit along toward the end of March last year and you saw at first hand how these fellows do the job.

It was getting along toward fall when you toured with us to the smelter at Anaconda and went into the Lead Shop there. We got that picture, shown at the bottom of this page, of Walter Krimmer who has been in the shop since 1924.
Those of you who are interested in electricity must have enjoyed, as much as we did, the trip to the Electrical Shop at Butte. It had been moved a few months before to the south side of the new Parrot Machine Shop building and, if you will remember, a more modern electrical shop would be hard to find. You certainly must remember seeing Jack Bradford, among others you met there, as he rewound a locomotive armature.

We hope you were as interested as we were in learning about color dynamics. Probably you will recall going to the Paint Shop at the smelter in Anaconda (you made the trip there on March 31 of last year and saw at first hand how color dynamics is employed). Color dynamics is the term applied to the use of soft complementary colors for industrial paints, and that second shot was taken high up near the roof of the Machine Shop at the smelter, where the boys did a thorough-going job of applying this new color.

It was at the Smelter at Anaconda too, along in May, where you visited the Carpenter Shop and got acquainted with Duncan Matheson and his able crew of craftsmen—two scenes inside the smelter Carpenter Shop are shown at the bottom of this page.

These are not all the shops you visited, by any matter of means. In this review of the trips you made with us during 1944, we can only give you the highlights of your visits. But those of you who have kept your copies of your Labor-Management newspaper can refresh your memories of the pleasant trips we have made together into the shops in the various locations.

One of the questions your editors are most often asked is this: "Of all the places you have visited throughout the state, what mine or shop did you like best?" The answer to that is simple enough: We liked them all. We wish all our readers might have been with us to see how much at home all the folks in all the places have made us feel.

You met Jack Bradford, shown here winding an armature in the Electrical Shop at Butte. In another issue of your Labor-Management newspaper, it was Jack whom we described as the "Globe Trotter," and you read a story about his interesting travels to many different countries.

If you had seen the Machine, Boiler, Pipe and Welding Shops at the Anaconda smelter before these boys got busy with their paint, you would be amazed at the wonderful results they obtained. Workers claim that today these shops are easy on the eyes, thanks to color dynamics.

At the Carpenter Shop at Anaconda, as we have already told you in the text, no job is too tough for the boys. According to Duncan Matheson, the superintendent, the boys catch 'em as they pitch 'em. You paid a visit to this busy shop in May, at a time when most of the fellows were out on jobs around the hill—they are constantly on the go. It is more convenient for carpenters to go wherever carpentry is needed and do the job.
When you visited the Pay Office in Butte in August with us, you met the men and girls behind the scenes who take care of your pay check and compute your deductions for union dues.

The series of articles on Business Machines operations and making up of payrolls included the folks at the Anaconda Smelter also. Here are a few of them operating Business machines.

In February you visited the Zinc Operating Department at Great Falls which handles all the reports on zinc from the time it is a concentrate until the product is finished and ready to be shipped. The men are George Moline, Joe Wagner, Gordon Ellis, Bill Mondik, Felix St. Jean.

When you visited the Pay Office in Butte in August with us, you met the men and girls behind the scenes who take care of your pay check and compute your deductions for union dues.

The series of articles on Business Machines operations and making up of payrolls included the folks at the Anaconda Smelter also. Here are a few of them operating Business machines.

In February you visited the Zinc Operating Department at Great Falls which handles all the reports on zinc from the time it is a concentrate until the product is finished and ready to be shipped. The men are George Moline, Joe Wagner, Gordon Ellis, Bill Mondik, Felix St. Jean.

You Saw the Offices & Labs

From what you folks have told us, one of the trips you enjoyed most during the past year in your tour with the editors of Copper Commando was to the Pay Offices. Here, as we know you will recall, we went behind the scenes of a pay check and tried to show our readers the work involved in getting together the large payroll. That meant, of course, going to the offices where these pay checks are made up. You saw here, on the lengthy trip which we began with you on August 4 of last year, the staggering task involved in taking care of various deductions from pay checks which have occurred as a result of Social Security, War Bonds, group insurance, and many, many other items.

You visited Butte first, as you recall, and followed the pay check for "John Doe" straight through. Here you had an opportunity to meet the many nice people who work behind the scenes making certain that your pay check arrives promptly and made out in the proper amount.

Next you traveled to Anaconda where we saw how the smeltermen's pay checks are made up and got acquainted with the folks there. Your next stop will be, of course, Great Falls where you shall see how the folks at the Smelter there are taken care of. This article is scheduled for an early issue and when it has appeared, we shall have "covered" the International Business Machines operations at the three locations.

Another behind-the-scenes tour you took with us was to the Telephone Offices. Here you got acquainted with the gals with the musical voices who take care of the deluge of calls which daily...
are carried across the wires. You saw several of the folks in the telephone offices at Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls; one of the Great Falls shots we show you on this page as typical of the operators you met.

The Zinc Research Department at Great Falls was only one of the many laboratories which you visited with us in 1944—we show you two different views of the lab there in the two lower pictures at the right. Research goes on endlessly at all of the Anaconda locations. Great credit is due these folks who work behind the scenes. The results of their unceasing efforts seldom show themselves in the open. The chemist, the geologist, the ventilation experts—these are only a few of the people whose work rarely comes before the public eye. But, in the making up of a large organization, there are many jobs which do not appear on the surface to be important but which are, in actual fact, very important.

That is why we like the chance, when we cover the mines and the shops and the smelters, not to overlook the folks behind the firing line who keep the wheels turning. During one of the visits which you folks made with us during the year, we had a visit with one of the lab workers and he said something which we think might fit in here. At any rate we'd like to tell you what he said: "No matter where you work or what you do in this world, your work ties in with a program that is bigger than your own work. Each fellow makes his contribution to that program and he benefits because it exists. For my part, I know I am kicking in with the best I've got to make the program work. My doing a good job helps the next fellow and when the next fellow does a good job, he helps me."
You Toured the Brass Mills

I t was back in March, if you recall, that we started our series on the brass mills of Connecticut. You started your lengthy visit with us on March 3.

For many weeks prior, your editors had toured the brass mills of the American Brass Company, which is a subsidiary of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, in Waterbury, Torrington and other places in the Connecticut Valley.

Because so many of you workers in the mines and smelters and shops and offices had told us so, we felt certain that you were interested in knowing what happened to the vital war materials you have produced so ably through the trying days of the war.

All of us knew here, of course, that the metals are taken out of the ground, shipped to the smelter at Anaconda for concentration, and then shipped, in the form of anodes, to Great Falls where they are converted into copper and zinc shapes. At that point, when they were shipped back to the brass mills for fabrication, we got a little hazy.

So when you visited the brass mills of the American Brass Company with us last year, you saw where your metals were going. They were going into shells and cartridges, some for the Army and some for the Navy; they were going into condenser tubes for the Navy so that our ships could deliver knock-out blows to the Nips.

Your editors found out a most interesting fact when we visited these Connecticut mills. It shouldn't have surprised us, but it did. This is what we discovered: That the workers in the brass mills back East were intensely interested in mining and smelting, as pictured in the pages of your Labor-Management newspaper. We knew, of course, because you had told us, that readers in Montana were curious to know about fabrication, but we didn't know the folks back there felt the same way about us out here.

Many of our readers discovered the real importance of the war job being done in Montana by reading about the results of their work in Connecticut.
Surely you remember your visit to the logging camp outside of Woodworth, Montana. Here, at the top of the page, we see the sawyers taking down a big fellow. Later on you moved along with us and the photographer to see the bulldozer clearing a path through the forest—the center pictures show the woodland country and the bulldozer at the right. In the bottom pictures we see the logs entering the mill on the bullchain.

You Took to the Woods

It was along in the fall when you took to the woods. We started our visit to the lumber operations outside of Woodworth, Montana, on September 1 and, because we thought you’d like it, we gave two full issues of Copper Commando to that trip. When we were done with it, we came down the canyon to the Anaconda lumber mill at Bonner and for several issues you have been paying visits to the community at Bonner and to the mill there where many of Butte’s mine timbers are milled. Only a short time ago you concluded your trip to Bonner in an issue of your Labor-Management newspaper.

We knew, because you told us so, that the trip to the lumber mill was one of the most interesting trips you made in all of 1944. You didn’t see mining operations here but you saw where mine timbers and other lumber necessary to the operation of mines came from.

Then, in moving along to Bonner, you saw the next steps.

It may be letting you in on a little secret, but during 1945, we plan other visits for you to outlying locations.
LAST, but far from least, you learned about safety. For all of us know, we who are associated with the mining industry, that it pays to work safely. It is not sermonizing to remind ourselves that the good miner takes no chances; it is just plain horse sense.

Over the year of 1944 you saw recognition given to mine crews which work safely, which went for long periods of time without accidents. That crew of Sam Casne's was at the Anselmo and you visited them on August 4 at which time we took their picture in recognition of the fact that this crew had worked a total of 3,992 man shifts in the six months' period from January 1 to June 30, 1944, without any member of the crew suffering a lost time injury. We know you like these pictures because you have told us so. In the year 1945 and in the years to follow, your editors hope that they may be privileged to publish many pictures of mine crews with outstanding safety records.

Safety isn't a matter of interest to Butte alone by any matter of means. At Anaconda, at Great Falls, and at East Helena, safety is preached and practiced—that's the Safety Sub-Committee below at East Helena of the Victory Labor-Management Production Committee there.

And that, folks, would seem to end our year of 1944. We hope you have enjoyed revisiting these places with us and meeting all these folks again, as much as we have enjoyed covering the stories.