

Mine lays off first fourteen

The first layoffs from the mine have taken place without all the categories of pension and settlement benefits established.

Fourteen men, all with less than three years service at the mine were laid off on Sat., Jan. 21. All this group is eligible only for unemployment insurance.

Mr. Bob Gray, Director of Labor Relations at the mine, indicated that there are still some disagreements in one category between the national union and the steel company.

Meetings will be held with employees to discuss their benefits before their layoff comes.

Twenty-two men will be laid off on the third of February. The remainder will be laid off at the beginning of March.

Mr. Gray also reported that a meeting had been held with salaried employees to discuss the winding down of operation at the mine.

Hard going in next five years, Philpot predicts

The loss of the mine will mean not only a significant loss of jobs but also loss of revenue to Marmora township. The business tax on the mine last year was \$20,901.00, a sizeable part of the townships budget.

Marmora can expect a drop in population and "hard going" in the next five years, according to Andre Philpot, member of council and a member of Marmora's industrial development committee.

It will be very difficult to convince a large industry to locate in Marmora. To do that we would have to prove that to locate in Marmora would be viable - more viable than Madoc, Norwood, Stirling or the other surrounding towns, according to Mr. Philpot.

"We can look towards attracting a number of small industries such as Fisher Stoves, perhaps, but it's unlikely that we will attract another large industry - look at the other towns around here - none of them have large industries, really," said Mr. Philpot and added, "We will be lucky if we can keep 150 to 200 jobs in the area."

Mr. Philpot expressed surprise at the early closure of the mine, saying that "it came a little sooner than we all expected." he said that no one in Marmora had, to his knowledge any forewarning of the mine's decision before workers were notified Tuesday morning.

The likelihood of Marmora becoming a dormitory town for larger centres such as Belleville, Peterborough and Ottawa is, according to Mr. Philpot very high. He indicated that Marmora may have to lean more heavily on tourism in the summer. "We've been concentrating on making the town more attractive."

The Industry development committee has been searching for a year and a half but had received nothing "concrete". The committee has also been talking with Clarke Rollins MPP and the Ministry of Industry and Tourism to obtain government help. "They have given us whatever assistance they can," said Mr. Philpot.

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Voice of the people

Fishing tackle factory for Marmora Village?

Dear Sir,

Read in your newspaper about the unemployment that will result when Marmoraton will close.

Several years ago I was talking to wife of a man who own's a local business. She remarked about having a building in town where all the lures, special hooks and other fishing tackle could be made--the types of fishing tackle that have long since disappeared from the scene, obtaining rights to manufacturers' replicas.

There is that large empty lot in the downtown area on the west side of the street where a two-storey building could be constructed for such a purpose.

Those laid off at Marmoraton would get first preference on hiring. That is two years away, enough time to have a building ready with tools and equipment and the copyrights obtained.

Glen Sclerslucke (?)
New Knoxville, Ohio

MARMORA HERALD
22 DEC, 1976
PG 2

Ohio man makes suggestion for mine pit

A new Knoxville Ohio man has written The Herald to suggest the Marmoraton Mine site be turned into a Provincial Park. The mine pit, after closing, could be stocked with fish, the writer suggests. He also suggests the waste material could be used to create islands in Crowe and Rice Lakes.

MARMORA HERALD
7 APR, 1976
PG 14 A

Voice of the people

Ski run suggested for mine after it closes

Dear Sir,

Read a note in The Marmora Herald from a man suggesting that the iron mine could become a provincial park, when it closes.

That would be a chance for a ski-resort since the mine is so deep. The sides of the mine could be revamped for ski slopes. If that wouldn't bring money to the town - nothing could.

Ski-trains would come in from Toronto to discharge passengers at Havelock, a short distance from here. Maybe there is an area closer where trains could stop to discharge passengers.

Marmora could have a lumberjack festival in the summer similar to that at Hayward Wisconsin. Re-open the local theatre, showing re-runs of the movies made in 1930's and the 1940's.

Editor's Note: this letter was signed but the spelling could not be verified.

MARMORA HERALD
8 DEC, 1976
PG 2

Bethlehem refused to sell Village land, Philpot charges

Bethlehem Steel would not co-operate with Marmora's industrial development committee in its attempts to procure services lands for future small industrial development according to Mr. Andre Philpot, a Marmora councillor and member of the committee.

According to Mr. Philpot, the council was interested in purchasing land that Bethlehem owned but had never used and which was situated at the junction of the mine road and the number 7 highway east of Marmora and west of the mine. The land is level and has high voltage wires, sewers and water easily available. Although the industrial development committee "had any number of meetings with the mine emphasizing its desire to purchase the land, the land was sold, along with the rest of the mines holding to Armbro Aggregates in a deal concluded this past fall but not revealed publicly until Christmas.

"We were very disappointed that more effort wasn't made to exclude that part of the land from the transaction with Armbro" he said.

Mr. Philpot also said that they were informed in a meeting with mine officials towards the end of September that "because of the proposed sale they would be unable to give us satisfaction". The industrial development committee, however, was asked to keep the matter a secret

services lands for future small industrial by the Ontario Government and by the mine. Mr. Philpot felt that it should be known however that the industrial development committee, particularly Graham Bell (Reeve of Marmora Township) were working very hard to have something set up for the time that the mine was closing.

Mr. Philpot said that short notice that the mine gave the village has worsened the problem that the village is faced with in establishing another site.

"It's mostly a time problem. Any land that would have to be rezoned would take 9 months to a year to put through the Ontario Government.

There is the additional problem, however that there is little or no serviced land in the Marmora area suitable for industrial development. Since the western side of the Crowe River is not serviced, all land in that direction is out of the question.

Mr. Philpot said that "the mine behaved well, while they were here but I didn't like the way they left. We would have like to have land here to offer skilled men layed off from the mine sites to set up their own business and also sites to attract out of town business. We thought we would get more assistance then we did from the mine.

They lived up to their legal responsibility, no more."

MARMORA HERALD

11 JAN, 1978

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Armbro makes no promises

Armbro Aggregates President John Maudsley has confirmed that, while Armbro is trying to decide upon the future of the Marmoraton Mine property they can make no firm commitment that will mean Marmorata will receive the industrial park it so badly needs.

Mr. Maudsley stressed that Armbro was caught in the same situation as most of the other principals involved in the mine property. "Along with the town, along with Bethlehem, we were working towards a 1980 deadline. We had studies started on potential uses. But there was no way anyone could predict the situation in the steel industry." Mr. Maudsley emphasized that Armbro had been working hard to try and decide the future of the property. "We are just as anxious as the town- more anxious perhaps because of the financial stake we have in the situation- to come to grips with the situation. I think we are aware of the fact that the town wants the property and how much it would mean. Believe me, we are not stalling for time. The minute that we come to grips with the problem we will let the town know. We are interested in being good corporate citizens."

Mr. Maudsley said that, although Armbro owns the land, it does not own buildings. "We are the agent for the disposal for the plant or equipment. But we are more than a simple sales agent. We have a great financial stake in the operation."

As to specifics, Mr. Maudsley said that the company could not indicate any specific plans. "We are looking at many, many possibilities." He did indicate that there was a possibility that the present stone-crushing operation, which comes to a halt for this year later this week, may be expanded next year.

The end of February has been put forward by Andre Philpot, one of the members of the industrial development committee, as a date when Armbro will likely come up with an answer. Mr. Maudsley indicated that there was "one possibility" which would be known at the end of February. He also said that he could not comment on the \$100 acre offer that the industrial development committee had offered for the land they are interested in- the 120 acres south of the highway and east of the village now part of the Armbro holdings.

No special deals for Council tells Armbro

Armbro and Bethlehem are still completing the terms of the deal that would give Armbro control of most of the mine property. Armbro intends to pull down some of the buildings and this will alter assessment.

However, council refused, concurring with Deputy Reeve John Wilkes' idea that, "I don't think that they (Armbro and Bethlehem) should have any more privileges than I do."

Council levies interest of one percent per month on overdue taxes. Reeve Graham Bell told the two men that it was a matter of "a few hundred dollars" and assured them that if the assessment changed, the assessment office usually refunded promptly.

In other business:

Council tabled the suggested land use bylaw and promised that it would be discussed at a meeting "in the near future".

A request was received from Gorgen, the developers who are putting in a 300 acre subdivision south of the village, for council to take about 200 acres of land in lieu of a developer's bond while the first third of the land is put on sale.

Reeve Bell told council that the developers hope to have the first lots on sale this spring; council has to decide whether the land is a strong enough bond. Previous councils have been left with egg on their face and unhappy ratepayers when unscrupulous developers have not delivered what they promised and a sufficient bond hadn't been obtained.

Incidentally, council was presented with a street and lot plan of the subdivision. The development will bear such picturesque names as: River Heights Rd., Juniper Trail, Tall Pine Crescent and Maple Avenue.

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15 Nov, 1978
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Mine office to close March 31

Over two years after it ceased drawing ore from the ground, the last employees of Marmoraton Mining in Marmora will finally wind up the operation.

Mine Superintendent Francis Rothermel said that all former employees of Marmoraton have been informed that the last remaining Marmora office - in one of the houses on the "town site" above the guesthouse - will no longer be in operation after March 31.

"We will actually be continuing to work there for a couple of months after March 31, but we're informing employees now that for things such as pensions, OHIP, Life Insurances that they should get in touch with the appropriate office in the U.S."

Mr. Rothermel said that the office had been very busy in the past two years. "But we've been gradually turning over personnel matters to the other offices in Bethlehem and Annville, Pennsylvania." These are the headquarters of Bethlehem Steel Marmoraton's parent company.

Mr. Rothermel said that he would be working on until the end of April and that accountant Ray Smith, the only other remaining employee, would probably work until the end of June. After that the house, House Number 4 on the town site, will go up for sale and Marmoraton mining, which less than two years ago owned substantial amounts of real estate in the area, will not own any property in Marmora.

Mr. Rothermel said that he would be remaining in Marmora. "Our home is here now. Unless something unforeseeable happens, we will remain in the village."

MARMORA HERALD

5 MARCH, 1980

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Marmora: two years later

BY PATRICK REDICAN

Everyone's had the experience. You go to the city and you meet someone you haven't seen in a while and, remembering that you live in Marmora, they say "How are things up there now? Must be pretty bleak."

And that jars you into remembering that in fact, with the Marmoraton Mine closed down, everything is supposed to be going downhill.

Remember the predictions? Marmora would become a ghost town. Marmora would become poverty stricken. Marmora would become a community of retirees as all the young families moved out.

Remember Lloyd Robertson - "There are no tears in Marmora" - and all the other reporters and newsmen descending on a town where the plug has been pulled.

But has any of these dire predictions come true? Has a decline set in that isn't visible on the surface? How much has the mine closing affected Marmora, its people, its economy?

For the answers to these questions the Herald went to the local experts - people who are dealing with people in Marmora on a daily basis and are in a position to notice change.

And to tell the truth, if Lloyd Robertson knew then what we know now, he might never have come. All of the people we talked to, without exception felt that the closing of the mine, to date anyway, has had a minimal effect on the village. The only question that remains is, have we felt the worst?

Francis Rothermel

"So far there has been very little change" says Francis Rothermel, the former mine superintendent who has been responsible for personnel since the mine closed, "very few have had to move from where they lived (20 or 25 per cent of the mine workers lived outside of Marmora) a handful have gone out west to Syncrude (the Alberta oil fields) and some have moved further west or to Toronto or Kingston, a couple to Elliot Lake but it doesn't amount to many - not more than 20 all together".

The impact of the mine closing on the miners themselves was cushioned in a number of ways - a number were close to retirement age and were given full pension or something close to it by the company; many of those working had another business - quite a few had farms while others had service or retail operations; and for those not receiving retirement there was generous separation pay and unemployment insurance to buffer the period looking for a job.

"We never had much of a turnover. It was a good job. Many of the people there had worked for the full twenty-five years and were entitled to full compensations", Mr. Rothermel told us. He also observed that there were very few of the miners who had not retired who were unemployed. "There aren't very many people idle. Most have found work, although many are commuting to Trenton or Belleville or Amberborough".

He does concede one difference - most of the men are not making what they did at the mine. "It's very rare that they get equal or more than they did at Marmoraton. That loss of wage could effect the economy of the town".

Bob Bartsch

Real Estate agent Bob Bartsch agrees that there has in fact been very little effect on the village from the mine closing. "Maybe in the first year after the closing, sales were up but it was nearly what we expected; we thought there'd be an awful pile but it never came".

Mr. Bartsch who has worked out of the Bowes and Cokes office in Marmora for eight years, feels the big difference is that people now go out of town to work. Most of the people have become commuters. They're here because it's cheaper to buy in Marmora or because they don't want the big city problems. And because if you own a house here you can't sell it and buy a similar one in the city for the same."

The houses that are changing hands - is it moving us more towards senior citizen's settlement? Are the young families moving out?

"Of course we're getting a lot of older people selling their \$60 thousand house in the city and moving to Marmora and buying one for \$25 or \$30 thousand. But that's been going on longer than I've been in real estate. There's people moving here from Toronto who aren't retired. They're just tired of it taking them an hour to drive five miles to work."

The real estate market in Marmora is depressed right now, Mr. Bartsch admits particularly in the "middle-priced" houses. Sales are very slow and prices "have decreased a certain amount". But, like so much else, this can be more easily attributed to a general slowing of the economy, high interest rates in particular, than to some cataclysmic affect of the mine.

William Callingham

"The closing of the mine hasn't affected us at all - or wouldn't appear to have" says Toronto-Dominion Bank manager Bill Callingham. "The mine closed in March 1978 and since that time we have had a steady increase in business - we've taken on one and a half more people; it's only slowed down in the past six months."

"It's possible that people have used up all the money they received as a result of the mine closing and are now using savings - but I don't think that's the case."

According to Mr. Callingham, the effect of the mine closing was probably overrated because not that much of the mine's money stayed in Marmora to begin with. "There were a relatively small number of those who worked there that were from Marmora in the first place. Many of the people lived and did their shopping out of the area. The number of dollars lost to the town simply didn't amount to that much."

MARMORA HERALD
30 APR 1980
PG 6 (1412)

Letters to the Editor

Marmoraton Mine parent company closes

Dear Nancy,

Enclosed please find a copy of "The Telegraph", a newspaper which serves the New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont areas.

I thought the article relating to the shutdown of the Bethlehem Steel Corp. plant in Bethlehem, P.A. would be of interest to area residents, as this was the **parent company** which operated the Marmoraton Mine.

Many of your readers and former employees of the Marmora operation can relate to the grief and despair being felt by their American brothers at this time.

Best wishes for the holiday season!

**Ken Sills
Brighton**

(**Editor's note:** The following excerpts were taken from a story written by Christopher McDougall, for the Associated Press)

There's not much fire-and-tongs fight left in Local 2599 any more. Old steelmen like Rebel, Chico and union boss Danny Mills know they've lost the battle to keep the hot end alive.

On Saturday (Nov. 18), Bethlehem Steel will extinguish the last blast furnace

at its flagship plant, sending home 1,800 workers and ending operation that has continued since before the Civil War.

The closing has left Bethlehem workers feeling betrayed. They helped bail out the company with concessions in the 1980s, only to see it spend the money on other plants out of town and out of state.

The hot-metal men and the big-beam shapers are the latest to fall to cutbacks that have shrunk the Bethlehem plant in northeastern Pennsylvania from 31,000 workers at its postwar heyday in the 1960s to 1,200 today. The skeleton crew will continue non-steelmaking operations, including a coke furnace and a combine mill that rolls unfinished steel.

Bethlehem was once America's No. 2 steelmaker, back when 85 per cent of all goods manufactured in the United States had some steel in them and 40 per cent of the nation's work force owed its wages, directly or indirectly, to steel.

Chances are almost any major bridge you cross or any skyscraper you see has some Beth steel in it. Metal forged here went into landmarks like the Golden Gate

and George Washington bridges, helped erect missile silos and built more than 1,000 naval and merchant ships during World War II.

But over the past 30 years, American giants like Bethlehem and U.S. Steel have been caught in what industry expert Paul Tiffany called the twin pincers of foreign steel and the mini-mills."...

The loss of places like Bethlehem is not limited to paychecks, said Bob Powell, a former Inland Steel executive who is now a consultant to the industry.

"America is losing one hell of a resource," he said. "Companies like Bethlehem -- which ran the whole show from iron ore to steel beams -- had physical and technical expertise that you can't marshal with joint projects."

Bethlehem steelworkers and plant operators largely blame each other for the company's failure to modernize in time to stay competitive.

"The union made wage concessions all through the 1980s so that the company could modernize," said Mills. "Millions of dollars, and where did the money go? Not here."

Bethlehem chief executive Curtis "Hank" Barnette

acknowledged that "the unions did their part when we asked them."

But rather than try to modernize the antiquated Bethlehem plant, Barnette decided to build a mini-mill in Steelton, Pa., and refurbish the steel plant in Burns Harbor, Ind., strategically located near the major auto manufacturers.

Bethlehem's restructuring has enabled the company to rebound somewhat. For the first nine months of 1995, Bethlehem posted profits of \$147 million.

Barnette believes that trying to modernize the 150-year-old Bethlehem furnace and plant with its aging work force would be a losing effort.

More than half of the newly laid-off workers have opted for early retirement, figuring that their specialized training and the reputation steelworkers have of being "difficult" have made them unemployable in the Bethlehem area. The others could face a dim future, too.

"I don't know what will happen to these men with kids in school, mortgages to pay," said 48-year-old furnaceman Larry Brandon. "We've got guys here with little ones, and that little nickel job they're going to find won't go too far."

The lucky ones will find jobs through the company's 4-year-old retraining and placement program. But Brandon believes many of the men will simply leave Bethlehem, a city of about 70,000 people.

"There's nothing here for them any more," he said, "just a town looking over a graveyard."

MARMORA HERALD
19 DEC 1995
(PGs 2+16)

Bethlehem Steel gets a bid

International Steel offers \$2.4 billion for mills, other assets
New firm would be 'a formidable new competitive player'

BILL BERGSTROM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA—International Steel Group Inc. has offered to buy Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s steel mills and related assets and bring the once-mighty industrial giant out of bankruptcy protection.

ISG valued the offer at \$1.5 billion (U.S.), which was worth about \$2.4 billion (Canadian) at yesterday's exchange rate. ISG added it expects negotiations for the purchase to be completed within 10 days. The offer would then need the approval of Bethlehem Steel's board, which will consider the matter later this month, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Robert Miller Jr., Bethlehem Steel's chairman and chief executive officer, said it could take several weeks to review the proposal, but he hoped for an agreement.

"A combination of Bethlehem and ISG would create a formidable new competitive player in the steel industry, with 16 million tons of annual shipment capacity," Miller said.

Neither ISG nor Bethlehem Steel officials would comment on whether job cuts would be necessary at the Bethlehem plants.

Sources close to the situation told Reuters that ISG is likely to propose cutting Bethlehem's 12,000-employee work force by up to 40 per cent.

"We are committed to completing this transition while meeting the highest expecta-

tions of the customers who rely on the steel produced in the facilities we intend to purchase," said Rodney Mott, president and chief executive officer of ISG.

Bethlehem Steel filed for bankruptcy protection Oct. 15, 2001. The company has been negotiating with potential buyers or joint-venture partners as well as attempting to reorganize the business to continue as a stand-alone operation.

Bethlehem Steel was a giant of 20th century industry, once employing nearly 300,000 people to forge steel for skyscrapers and bridges and build ships for World War II.

The plant sprawling along the Lehigh River in Bethlehem, however, hasn't produced steel

since 1995.

With the 12,000 employees remaining, the company makes steel at the Burns Harbor Division in northwest Indiana and the Sparrows Point Division near Baltimore, with smaller operations in Coatesville and Conshohocken, Pa. Corporate headquarters remain in Bethlehem.

Miller has previously said there was "zero chance" Bethlehem Steel would go out of business. But merger negotiations have stumbled over huge obligations to 75,000 pensioners, including retirees and surviving spouses, and 130,000 health-care-plan participants, including employees, retirees and their families. Potential investors or partners have balked at taking on those "legacy costs," which Miller has estimated at \$5 billion (U.S.), or almost \$8 billion (Canadian).

TORONTO STAR
7 JAN 2003
PG. E3