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MOTHER JONES

Mother Jones, who started organizing for the UMW when she was about 40 and continued until she was 94, led some of the miners' fiercest struggles for recognition and decent working conditions. This picture was taken in 1902 when she was 72. She had just escaped a jail sentence in West Virginia, though she served, so many others that she once said: "Being jailed and being bailed is just part of the labor movement." (LPA)

## Mother Jones Served U.M.W. Forty Years

"I live in the United States, but I do not know exactly where. My address is wherever there is a fight against oppression. Sometimes I am in Washington, then in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, Colorado. My address is like my shoes. It travels with me."

It was thus that Mother Jones, for more than half a century an organizer and front line fighter in the worst battles of the United Mine Workers, answered a Congressman who asked for her address.

Part of the reason Mother Jones' address changed so frequently was that she was run out of one state after another (always to come back) as she bucked public officials and business interests in her untiring efforts to help "her boys," the coal miners. More often she moved voluntarily to be where the trouble was hottest.

In 1902, a prosecuting attorney in Parkersburg, W. Va., called her "the most dangerous woman in the country today" after she was hauled into court for entering the state in spite of an injunction which was supposed to ban union organizers from West Virginia "forever and ever." Never one to mince words, she called the judge a "scab" at that trial. She was 72 at the time and had been in union work for more than 30 years.

Mary Harris Jones was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1830, the daughter of a laborer named Richard Harris. He became an American citizen when Mary was about SEVENTEEN—LABOR DAY . . . . .

en years old. While still in her teens, Mary became a school teacher in Michigan, later set up shop as a dressmaker in Chicago, then became a teacher again in Memphis, Tenn., where in 1861, she married an ironmolder. But the yellow fever epidemic of 1867 killed her husband and four children and Mary went back to dress making in Chicago. The Chicago Fire of 1871 made her homeless.

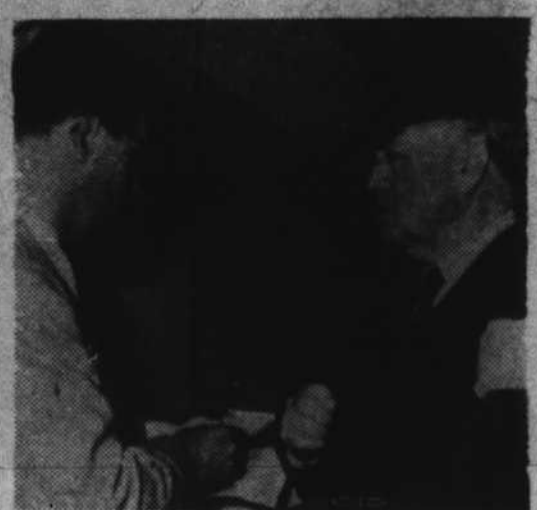
She was about 40 when she joined the Knights of Labor and began her first work with the union movement. She was swept into the bitter 8-hour fight and her autobiography describes vividly the 1886 Chicago Haymarket bombing and the subsequent hanging of leaders of the 8-hour movement.

One of the first places where she was called by the affectionate nickname of Mother Jones was in Norton, Va., in 1891. A worried miner who met her at the train informed her that "the superintendent told me if you came down here he would blow out your brains."

But Mother Jones held the meeting she had come for anyway—on a public road after the coal operators forestalled plans to have it in a church. She was arrested and fined right after the meeting and the coal company officials expressed surprise when she paid the fine immediately. "I had the money in my petticoats," she explained. Her petticoats, with money and without were to



1—November deaths of William Green (left) and Philip Murray (beside Green) changed top leadership of both AFL and CIO. George Meany (second from right), named to succeed Green as AFL president, and Walter Reuther, Murray's successor as CIO head, almost immediately reopened AFL-CIO unity talks which by mid-1935 had resulted in tentative agreement on a no-raiding pact.



2—UMW President John L. Lewis (right) gets news that Wage Stabilization Board, over protests of its labor members, chopped 40 cents from \$1.90 a day raise negotiated by UMW. WSB industry members walked out in a huff when President Truman restored the cut, and board work was placed in hands of public members. President Eisenhower suspended all wage controls shortly after taking office.



3—Appointment of AFL Plumbers' President Martin Durkin as Secretary of Labor, lone labor representative in an otherwise big-business cabinet, brought shout of "incredible" from Senator Taft, but fellow plumbers seemed well pleased with the honor accorded their top officer. In spite of Ike's promises to strengthen the Labor Department, its budget was cut ruthlessly by a Congress also dominated by business.



4—Severe anti-labor state laws were emphasized when Texas Iron worker Grady Ivey was sentenced to a year in prison for fight near Dallas picket line, an offense punishable by only a \$5 to \$25 fine for non-union man. Released after serving four months of the sentence, Ivey was greeted by his family. An ominous trend toward leaving more and more labor legislation to states was seen in new Administration's policies.



Chap. News Photo  
Martin P. Durkin  
Secretary of Labor

## Secretary Of Labor Durkin's Address

By MARTIN P. DURKIN,  
Secretary of Labor

Labor Day is an expression of American freedom and American progress.

It was created 71 years ago by a group of trade unionists seeking to give labor its dignity. Their efforts succeeded. Labor Day has become a holiday of all the people, and an accepted symbol of the spirit of free working men and women.

American free labor has grown along with the American nation and its people, and it has used its strength to help the cause of freedom around the world.

On this first Monday in September, 1953's Labor Day, it is fitting and proper that American working people, those in white collars as well as those in overalls, extend again their thoughts and their greetings and well-wishes to their brother workers in foreign lands.

Our message to the workers in free lands is one of fellowship. We are joined to oppose the ugly spectres of dictatorship and communism. Through our government, our churches, our labor unions and other organizations, we have offered our help in the cold war that is being waged over the world for the minds and souls as well as the bodies of men and women.

For the oppressed workers behind the Iron Curtain, American workers send a message of hope and sympathy. Six thousand years of history have proved that no suppression, no oppression, can kill the desire of men and women for freedom and dignity, the yearning to build a better world for their children. We in America pray, and we know and believe, that the workers in foreign lands will fight on as we have for freedom and progress, and the eventually they will win.

The workers of East Germany and of Czechoslovakia have struck out against the despots seeking to enslave them, in the world's most recent examples of man's long struggle for freedom. The June graves of their martyrs are already hallowed shrines in the minds of freedom-loving people everywhere. On this Labor Day in America, we will pray for labor's strength and progress everywhere.

The American workingman has scored many economic gains in the past year, so that the purchasing power of the average person has risen to new all-time highs, five percent greater than a year ago, despite an increase of 2 3/4 million in our population.

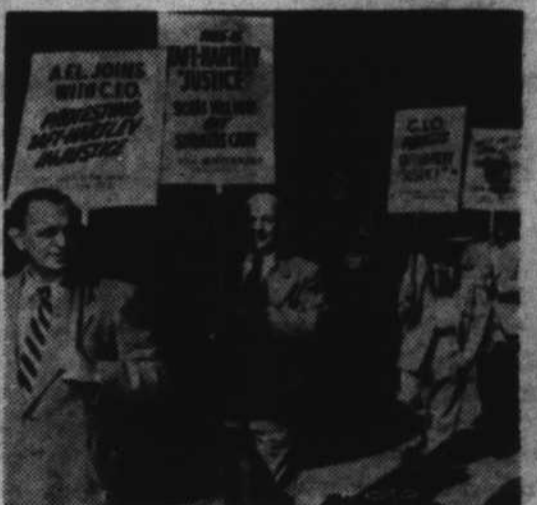
Labor income has expanded \$17 billion or 10 per cent, as a result of increased employment and increased wage rates. The number of persons at work has soared to record levels and unemployment has dropped to levels attained heretofore only in the midst of an all-out war.

Reflecting the rising value of the workingmen, both in terms of his increasing productivity and in terms of the need for services, average hourly earnings have risen steadily and have gained on prices, which have remained fairly steady in the aggregate for more than a year.

It is worthy of note that progress in expanding and extending the American standard of living is achieved only when real income, not just dollar income, rises. Sub-



5—Attacks on gains of past 20 years were immediate aftermath of GOP victory in November. A Chamber of Commerce scheme to destroy social security got sympathetic attention from Secretary Hobby of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and labor joined other groups in an attempt to block the scheme. Above, Katherine Ellickson of CIO and Nelson Cruikshank of AFL prepare protest to Mrs. Hobby.



6—In spite of repeated promises from Ike and House and Senate GOP leaders, Taft-Hartley was still unchanged as Congress adjourned. Even issues on which there was agreement, such as scrapping of the clause permitting scabs but not strikers to vote in NLRB elections, had not been written into law. That clause was the cause of this joint CIO-AFL picket line in Newark, N. J.



7—Labor movement lost another of its pioneer stalwarts when Allen Haywood (left), returned as CIO executive vice president after losing to Reuther in the race for CIO presidency, died in February while addressing a union meeting in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Beside him is David McDonald, Murray's successor as head of the Steelworkers and staunch Haywood supporter in the contest for CIO's top post.



8—Retirement of Edward Keating (right) as editor of "Labor," rail brotherhood's newspaper, marked end of era in labor journalism. Keating had edited the rousing paper since its founding in 1919. Top labor leaders, among them President T. C. Carroll (left) of Maintenance of Way Employees, honored him at testimonial dinner. Biggest rail union gain of year was winning of productivity pay for first time.



9—Most startling union contract gain of the year was provision for a full year's vacation after 10 years of service in agreement between AFL Electrical Workers and Hedco Mfg. Co. in Chicago. Employees who don't want all that leisure time can work the year for double pay. The boss and union representatives got a big hurrah as contract was signed.



10—Another change in top labor leadership came when Dan Tobin (left) retired after 45 years as head of AFL Teamsters, to be succeeded by Executive Vice President Dave Beck. Tobin retained his seat on AFL executive council, which early in 1953 ordered the racket-ridden International Longshoremen's Association to clean up or get out of the AFL.



11—Third World Congress of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Stockholm came in midst of East German worker uprisings against Communist tyranny. CFTU delegation was sent to East Berlin to determine what help could be given the rebellious workers. Earlier, a UN-International Labor Organization report substantiated charges of widespread slave labor in Russia and her satellites.



12—CIO accused the White House of appeasement of "immoral political forces" for refusing to nominate CIO Textile Workers' John Edelman (left) as Assistant Secretary of Labor even after he had given complete loyalty and security clearance. Here, Edelman rises at Senate hearing to protest appointment of anti-labor textile magnate Robert Stevens (right) as Secretary of Army.

visit hundreds of coal camps throughout the country in the years to follow.

Knowing the value of the women's support for their men during strikes, Mother Jones often used the miner's wives to battle the coal companies. In Arnot, Pa., around 1900, she organized an "army" of miners' wives and succeeded in winning a strike which had been all but lost before she came to town.

The coal operators welcomed her to Arnot by having her evicted from her hotel and throwing into the street a miner's family with which she took refuge. To take care of scabs who were working the mines, Mother Jones armed the women with mops and brooms and pails of water.

The "army," led by a big woman in a red petticoat and one black and one white stocking, charged the mine, yelling and banging on pots and brandishing their mops. The mules became frightened and took off and the scabs fled with the petticoat army at their heels. The women kept watch at the mines day and night in the freezing cold, blanket-swaddled babies on their hips, mops in hand. The strike finally was won, all demands conceded.

In Greensburg, Pa., when Mother Jones used the miners' wives gain, the sheriff hauled the women into court. Sentenced to jail for 30 days, they took their children and babies with them. But everyone was released at the end of five days after the women, followed Mother Jones' suggestion

and kept the whole town awake the entire time with loud but not overly melodic singing.

Mother Jones wasn't among the jailed women in Greensburg, but she was in prison so many times during her long fight for the working man that she lost count. "Being jailed and being bailed is just part of the labor movement," she said.

Her longest jail term was in Pratt, W. Va., where she spent three months in a military prison in 1914 when she was 84 years old. When she heard that financial interests were exerting pressure to kill a proposal for a Senate investigation of the whole smelly mess, she sent a telegram to Washington through a friendly guard. It said:

"From out of the military prison walls of Pratt, W. Va., where I have walked over my 84th milestone in history, I send you the groans and tears and heartaches of men, women and children as I have heard them in this state. From out of these prison walls I plead with you for the honor of the nation to push that investigation and the children yet unborn will rise and call you blessed."

Mother Jones was released and the investigation took place.

When she attempted to go to southern Colorado in 1913 to help the miners in the bitter fight against the Rockefeller interests that culminated in the Ludlow Massacre in 1917, she was arrested by the militia and taken to prison. She described her es-

cort thusly: "There were 150 or broken bones, the quivering cavalry, 150 infantry, 150 horses with their heads poked at me, 150 gunmen of the Standard Oil Co. and the old woman . . ."

She was imprisoned for nine weeks that time and was placed in solitary confinement for 26 days when she started for southern Colorado again as soon as she was released. Her jail was an unheated, dark cellar under the courthouse and at night she had to fight off sewer rats with a beer bottle.

While best known for her work with the miners, Mother Jones was involved in the battles of other parts of the labor movement, too. In Kensington, Pa., in 1903, 75,000 textile workers, 10,000 of them children, were on strike. Many of the children had lost hands or fingers in the unsafe textile machinery.

Mother Jones decided to take the infamous situation to President Theodore Roosevelt himself and she organized the children into an army which started from Philadelphia for the Roosevelt mansion at Oyster Bay, N. Y. The children had knapsacks and cooked their food in a wash boiler along the road. Sometimes they got free rides from trainmen and other sympathizers.

Everywhere Mother Jones held meetings, often over the protests of public officials. She used the children as exhibits. "I held up their mutilated hands," she said "and showed them to the crowd and made the statement that Philadelphia's mansions were built

or broken bones, the quivering hearts and drooping heads of these children."

When the procession finally reached Oyster Bay, Roosevelt refused to see the ragged army, but the issue of child labor was on the lips of the nation and the groundwork for corrective legislation had been laid.

Countless similar events in the history of Mother Jones' service to the labor movement could be told. She remained active until about 1923 when she was 94 years old. She had passed her 100th birthday when she died December 1, 1930, near Hyattsville, Md. She was buried at Mount Olive, Ill., in the Miners Union Cemetery. The crowds at the funeral were so great that 4,000 had to be turned away.

## Labor-Management Partnership Necessary For Nation's Strength

By WHITLEY P. MCCOY,

Director Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

It is indeed an honor on this Labor Day for me to join in the many tributes to the American working man.

As indispensable partners in our industrial democracy, the men and women of labor in these United States have made a tremendous contribution to the economic growth of our nation.

In times of peace, through their exercise of their right of voluntary association and by fully utilizing the democratic process of collective bargaining, they have helped to safeguard the fundamental liberties which we all cherish.

At times when the security of this nation has been threatened, they gladly laid aside their self-interests and made common cause with industry to defend and preserve our democracy against all who sought to destroy it. Time and again, they have demonstrated to a troubled world that in a democracy management and labor can live and work together for the common good of all peoples.

Their record of progress and achievement is truly a beacon of hope lighting the path for all (Cont. on Page 8, This Section)

