

University of Northern Colorado

Scholarship & Creative Works @ Digital UNC

Colorado National Monument

Colorado National Parks

Memorandum on Coal Strike

B. R. Finch

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digscholarship.unco.edu/colm>

830.01 830.01

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT
GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO
Fruita

Nov. 25, 1946.

MEMORANDUM for the Superintendent,
Mesa Verde National Park.

The enclosed items from the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel may be of interest in relation to the coal strike. Certainly, the coal strike is intensifying the already critical wood stealing on the Monument.

11 Yesterday we received several requests for permission to cut wood on the Monument. In spite of the best explanations I could give for refusing, the reactions were bitter. Probably we would have been swamped with wood haulers if we had not had a storm with from five to eight inches of snow. This kept many away. However, it is rumored that there is much more snow on Pinion Mesa and other areas which makes the Colorado Monument about the only available source of wood. If the strike continues we may have a problem. Incidentally the storm has put our telephone line out of commission. We have not yet discovered the cause.

DISTRIBUTION	
<i>[Signature]</i>	
<i>1 yeager</i>	
Chief Ranger	
Naturalist	
Accounts	
Personnel	
Steno	
Gen. Inspection	
Mechanic	Enclos.
Electrician	
Commissioner	
Engineer	
Clerk, Steno.	
Miss	
<i>2</i>	

[Signature]
B.R. Finch
Custodian



Mr. Rose:
I did not receive a call from the Fruita cut wood camp because yesterday some of our lines were out. I hope they do not arrive here with a load of sheep some day.

LAST OF THE HEAP is being shoveled into a Jaros Coal and Grain company truck by J. G. Towns. The pile is typical of many in this area. Dealers generally figure that the stockpile of unbilled coal on the local division is really mythical, as each dealer gets so little. They know that even if the strike does end in a few days that it will be many days thereafter before they can begin to supply coal in adequate quantities. They are fearful of a mixture of inadequate heat and winter weather. They foresee families doubling up to keep warm, and suffering. Of the 175 cars of unbilled coal on the local division at the start of the strike only slightly over 100 cars are left, according to estimates. No accurate figures were available Saturday night. The 175 cars belonged to the entire division, including most of western Colorado and eastern Utah, and not Grand Junction alone.



Deliver 35 Cars of Unbilled Coal; No Brownout Here Yet

The stockpile of 175 cars of unbilled coal on the local division of the Denver and Rio Grande Western tracks had been reduced by 35 cars at noon today, leaving a balance of 140 cars.

While dealers spend much of their time answering telephone calls from customers who say they have less than a 10-day supply, the major mines in the county are still closed. So far no verified hardship cases have been reported here, and no institutions have closed because of the strike, although every householder calling in reports only meager supplies.

It is expected that some doubling up of families may be necessary by early next week, unless additional coal is received here.

The Public Service company here has received no instructions concerning a brownout, although such instructions are expected if the strike continues. Local canning plants which are in the midst of the apple canning season and which expected to start on beans later, are now operating on promises of coal, with available supplies being rapidly exhausted.

A weekend cleanup campaign in the surrounding hills by householders who need heat is anticipated, with families picking up everything they think will burn.

As in the strike last spring, hospitals, utilities, railroads and householders with less than a 10-day supply are being given priority on coal delivered.

note {

Colorado National Monument

