

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### COEUR D'ALENE MINERS' UNION INTEREST IN POLLUTION PROBLEMS

Number 917

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Conflicting interest among different Coeur d'Alene miners' union elements have affected contract negotiations there for more than forty years. Younger miners who tended to move from one area to another preferred to limit their demands to gain higher wages. But miners (usually older and more established) who had settled down with their families had additional concerns reflecting their more permanent employment. Pension plans, long term health and working benefits, and protection from pollution or similar hazards also interested them. Union negotiators would emphasize all of these matters during bargaining sessions, but would abandon them in favor of wage demands that their more mobile younger members concentrated upon. Such matters as following up pollution complaints with public health authorities would not be pursued after contracts were settled, but interest in nonwage issues would be revived when new negotiating periods commenced.

Information provided by Robert Romig

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