00:00:13 Music playing

00:00:35 Bill Jackson still has fun with his kids but it’s a lot tougher now. Bill ran the roof-blowing machine in a coal mine. The first time he took a chance was the last time he worked in the mines. Too often coal miners like Bill Jackson are forced to take chances. One of every twelve miners is injured on the job each year. One of every 500 is killed. Bill Jackson thinks people should come first, not production. What do you think?

00:01:11 Music

00:02:05

America’s coal miners believe in law and order and they think it should begin at home. The Mine Health and Safety Act is a tough law, but tough laws aren’t any good unless they’re enforced. So far this year there have been more than 70,000 reported violations of the safety act; many resulted in injury, some in death. If you’re a coal miner, you should insist that safety violations be corrected. Report uncorrected violations to the Bureau of Mines by calling 202-343-4864 toll free. You don’t have to leave your name. It might save your life. 00:02:42

00:03:27

America produces coal more efficiently than any country in the world, but America’s miners are paying a high price to keep the country’s lives burning. Coal mining is the most hazardous job in the country. More than 100,000 men have been killed since 1900. Last year alone, 260 men died in coal mining accidents. Thousands more were injured. If you’re a coal miner, the new federal Mine Health and Safety Act is supposed to make your job less dangerous. Safety is everybody’s business, but in the end, it’s up to you. If you see hazardous conditions in your mine, be sure they are corrected. You can report uncorrected safety violations to the Bureau of Mines by calling 202-343-4864 toll free. That’s 202-343-4864. You don’t have to leave your name and it might save your life. 00:04:29

00:05:00 Turn and hold the mic away from the TV. *\*inaudible talking\** 00:05:13

00:05:25 Husband could die, um, *\*inaudible talking\** about getting, going back in and getting a black lung compensation.

00:05:33 Well I would suggest that women with husbands that feel, uh, or have had any, um, any trouble at all about the silicosis before, the black lung beforehand, I suggest that should their husbands pass, it’s very much important that they would, before they put their husbands away, to have an autopsy taken. That they might have proof as a picture for, uh, their health, you know, of getting their, uh, black lung. I feel that really, uh, if you don’t have nothing to work on there, that’s nothing. But I feel that if they have a picture taken, have an autopsy, and have this taken properly as they should, it will really be a great help to many families.

00:06:22 If you become a widow, you may be eligible for compensation. An autopsy is the best way to be sure you get the benefits you deserve. Think about it, it may help you and your family. 00:06:33

00:06:50

(child babbling in background) Frank Miller made it home from Vietnam, his big worry now is making it home from work. Frank’s a coal miner, the country’s most dangerous occupation. His chances of being killed in the coal mines are greater than they were in Vietnam. The war has taken the lives of 50,000 American men. More than twice that number have died in the mines since 1900. Frank Miller loves his kids. He would like to be around to love his grandchildren. Right now the odds aren’t good enough. Safety is everybody’s business, but in the end, you miners know it’s up to you. If illegal safety violations endanger your life, you have a right to walk out. And if you don’t walk out, you might be carried out. 00:07:52

00:08:31

(Man) The day where they asked me that had got paid for my lungs, then I told him no, then he said why not, and I said I didn’t know. And he said well you, you know you didn’t have no wind and I said yeah, and he said you ought of been paid, you’ve got permanent affected lung, do da da. That’s what the two head doctors at the hospital told me. One of ‘em was the owner of the hospital, the other one was their heart and lung specialist.

(Interviewer) Have you ever applied for black lung?

(Man) Yep.

(Interviewer) How long ago?

(Man) Uh, two years, I had two years, be two years in February.

(Interviewer) Have you heard from them at all?

(Man) I was rejected last September.

(Interviewer) What was the reason, do you know?

(Man) They said I didn’t reach the requirement of the law.

00:09:12 If your black lung claim is rejected, don’t give up. Contact your local social security office immediately and ask for reconsideration. Reconsideration means you can submit new medical evidence that may help you win your claim. The important thing is not to give up. 00:09:32

00:09:47 You worry about maybe top will fall on you sometimes, \*laughing\*. That’s the biggest one I guess; working under all of this earth. And that, and a lot of other things there, a machine-men may be getting out of control, or a machine getting out of control and jump around on you, or, or a car getting left behind and run over you; mine car. All sort of, all sorts of things like that.

00:10:18 When Bill Jackson was disabled in 1950, a coal miner’s chances of being injured were about one in fourteen. Today, increased emphasis on production has made the odds even worse. Roof falls are still the number one killer. If you’re a coal miner, you know that setting safety posts and checking the roof can save your life. Safety is everybody’s business, but in the end, it’s up to you. 00:10:44

00:11:12 I’m a disabled coal miner. I’ve worked in the mines for twenty-two years. My lungs are shot. I have shortness of breath. I can hardly walk. I’m completely exhausted almost all of the time. And I’ve heard that there is what is called Black Lung benefits, and I would like to have whatever information that I need to, uh, determine whether or not I’m eligible for my Black Lung benefits. 00:11:38

00:11:39 If you’re a coal miner with shortness of breath, you may be eligible for black lung benefits. Contact your local social security office, or the Black Lung Association for more information. 00:11:51

00:12:11 Found out about three year ago that he did have silicosis, and the doctors told me that he was in the second stage. I was really worried and really scared, because I had heard about it and I knew that it was dangerous, and I knew how sudden death would come to the person in that stage. So I was worried and there had been nights that I was even afraid to go to sleep. Nights that I had laid awake all night long, not going to sleep till I was sure he was getting his breath normal. And if I’d wake up at night, I’d reach over, and feel him and see if he was still alive. I’d lay awake many a night and listen to him just gasp for his breath, not knowing whether he’s going to be getting up, or laying still. Been with him whenever he jump out of the bed for his breath. I been with him when he’s fell on the floor, couldn’t get his breath. Take a choking spell or valve shuts off and he can’t get his breath. I’ve had to pick him up out of the floor. Been with him when he’s out in the yard, fell in the yard right in the mud. Where he’s out there just messing around, fell in the mud, helped pick him up and bring him in the house. Yeah, I know what it means to live with a man that has black lung cause it’s terribly, it’s fearful, you never know how quick their going to take a choking spell and go. 00:13:31 Black lung is bad business, but you can be compensated for it. When you go to your local social security office, be sure you have proof to back up your claim. Medical evidence should include an x-ray and a breathing test. The coughing and wheezing won’t go away, but at least you can be paid for them. 00:13:50

00:14:24 \*inaudible talking\* 00:14:37

00:15:03 \*Music begins\* (song lyrics) Yeah, I made the foundation, well the open of the plain, tell me ‘bout more, more”

(Narrator) MyTV Mobile Studio Unit. The mobile instructional television unit was purchased on July of the 1970. The purpose of the Mobile MyTV to take TV, camera and recording equipment where the action is 00:15:32

00:16:35 \*Music begins\* (song lyrics) You walk the line, you load sixteen tons of 00:16:40

00:16:57 \*Music begins\* (song lyrics) Some people say a man is made out of mud. A poor man’s made out of muscle and blood. Muscle and blood and skin and bones, a mind that’s a-weak and a back that’s strong. You load sixteen tons, what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Saint Peter don’t you call me, cause I can’t go, I owe my soul to the company store. I was born one morning when the sun didn’t shine. I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine. I loaded sixteen tons, of number nine coal, and the straw boss said a-well bless my soul. You load sixteen tons, what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Saint Peter don’t you call me, cause I can’t go, I owe my soul to the company store. I was born one morning, it was drizzling rain. Fighting and trouble are my middle name. I was raised in the canebrake by an ol’ mama lion. Can’t no high tone woman make me walk the line. You load sixteen tons, what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Saint Peter don’t you call me, cause I can’t go, I owe my soul to the company store. If you see me coming, better step aside. A lot of men didn’t, a lot of men died. One fist of iron, the other of steel. If the right one don’t get you, then the left one will. You load sixteen tons, and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt. Saint Peter don’t you call me, cause I can’t go. I owe my soul to the company store. 00:19:28

00:19:31 \*Music begins\* (song lyrics) First born, this infant with his mother’s eyes, is our first born. 00:19:47

00:19:59 Contact your local social security office for more information. 00:20:06

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