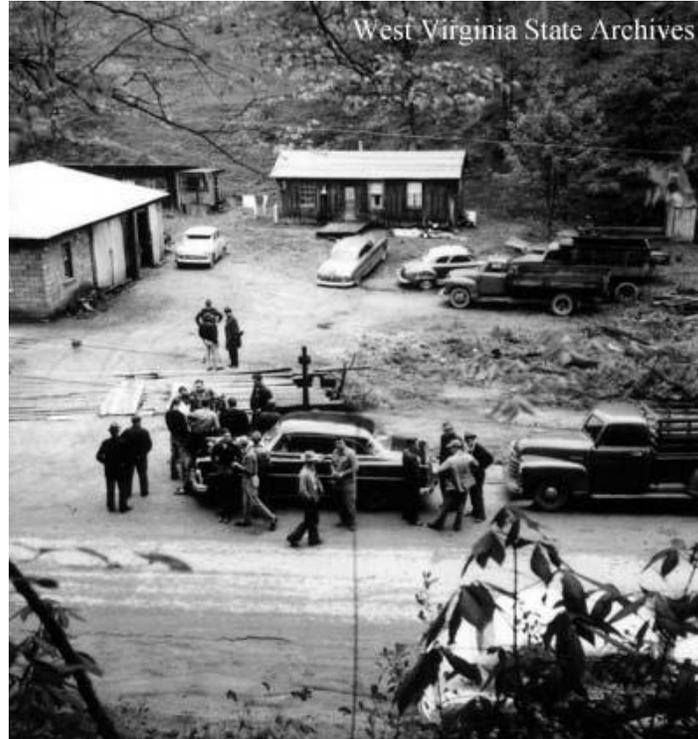


### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY OCTOBER 1



Striking miners in Widen being arrested after the murder of Charles Frame

**On October 1, 1952, violence broke out in Widen, the scene of a bitter 15-month coal strike.**

**CSO: SS.8.8, SS.8.9, SS.8.24, ELA.8.1**

**Investigate the Document: (Bill Blizzard Collection)**

1. Miners in Widen were voting to join either the United Mine Workers of America or *this* grassroots labor union?
2. How long had the alternative union to the United Mine Workers of America been in existence at the time?

**Think Critically:** Who wrote the leaflet? What is another important event in West Virginia history with which Blizzard is associated? What are labor unions?

**WHY-**

*the Widen Miners Should Be Members of the*  
**United Mine Workers of America**

1. Because all other miners in the United States belong to U. M. W. of A.
2. The only organization that can give the miners at Widen proper protection is the U. M. W. of A.
3. The miners at Widen will have a right to select their own officers in the U. M. W. of A.
4. There would be no initiation fee charged by the U. M. W. of A. to any of the employees eligible to vote in collective bargaining election at Widen, March 28, 1944.
5. The dues are one dollar and sixty cents per month in the U. M. W. of A. Ninety cents paid to the International Union, forty cents to District Union and thirty cents retained by the Local Union at Widen.
6. No extra assessments will be charged to the miners at Widen by the U. M. W. of A.
7. No back dues will be charged to the miners at Widen by the U. M. W. of A.
8. In my opinion all miners can receive from one dollar to five dollars per day increase in wages above the rate that is now being paid by this company, if they vote for the U. M. W. of A.
9. Time and one-half will be paid for all over-time worked in mine each week day if you vote for the U. M. W. of A.
10. All outside men to be paid time and one-half for all work over seven hours per week day if they vote for the U. M. W. of A.
11. Double time will be paid for Sunday work for all outside men if they vote for the U. M. W. of A.
12. Double time will be paid for Sunday work in the mine if you vote for the U. M. W. of A.
13. All compensation cases of coal miners will be taken care of, free of charge, by our District Compensation Department, if you vote for the U. M. W. of A.
14. When the miners at Widen vote for the U. M. W. of A., they will be represented and have a voice in making all wage agreements.
15. The right to determine what shifts they work on if they are a member of the U. M. W. of A.

**WHY-**

*the Widen Miners Should NOT Vote for*  
**Employees League of Widen Miners**

1. The Employees League of Widen Miners have already chosen their officers which the miners would have no right to change.
2. In my opinion the officers of the Employees League of Widen Miners are domineered and controlled by the company and their bosses.
3. In my opinion the Employees League of Widen Miners would not be able to protect their membership because they are controlled by the company.
4. In my opinion the Employees League of Widen Miners can charge the miners from one dollar to one hundred dollars initiation fee if they want to.
5. In my opinion the Employees League of Widen Miners can charge the miners from fifty cents to ten dollars a month dues without their consent.
6. In my opinion if the Employees League of Widen Miners wins this election you are giving them legal status that would completely domineer the lives of the miners at Widen.
7. In my opinion it leaves a complete leeway for the company to control a few local officers of the Employees League of Widen Miners.
8. All miners at Widen know that the Employees League of Widen Miners has been in existence for some five years, and they have not done anything for the miners at Widen, and if they win the election, in my opinion, they will not do any more than they have done in the past five years.

*William Blizzard*  
Vice President, District, 17, U. M. W. of A.

