

I was born in Shamokin, Pa. during the coal strike in April 1902.

Mom had Margaret, first born, and we were eleven months apart.

Pop went away to work with Mike McCormick, Frank Apple to a town in West Pennsylvania by the name of Holsapple. And mom was a dressmaker, so she again started to make dresses, and she hired a colored mammie to take care of Margaret and me. After the strike was over pop came home and went to work at Bear Valley Colliery, where I later went to work.

The colored women's name was Leader. At that time we lived on Market St. - the house that faces Pine Stree.

I went to Coal Township School 1st to 3rd grades, 4th and 5th grades at St. Joseph's

That summer, at age 14, I worked in Jiles Hosiery Mill running 15 Scott & Williams machines making stockings. In September I started to work as a laborer in J.H. & C.K. Eagles Silk Mill. The next year at age 15 I started to work at Bear Valley Colliery as a laborer. July 1917, a month later, I was appointed to Assistant Store Keeper handling all supplies for the mines. In April 1922 the mines were on strike.

I went to work for a construction company making the new highway from Shamokin to Sunbury.

In May 1922 I started to work for Shamokin Street Car Co. as a track repairman during the day, and at night I worked as a conductor on the street cars, also Sundays and holidays.

When the strike ended I went back to the mines during the day and at night I worked as an extra conductor for the Trolley Co. until January 1, 1924 I was appointed at the Bear Valley Colliery as Timber and Lumber Inspector and Yard Foreman. At that time all supplies came to the mines in railroad cars.

Some time later I was called in by the District Superintendent. He told me the expense was too great handling supplies, and that I should study and find a way to cut down the expenses. So I changed the system where we purchased all supplied to be delivered by truck. When that happened I was ordered to lay off 29 men. These men and their families were cross at me for a long time.

I was married on April 17, 1927 to Stella B. (Szczenie) Stasney in St. Stanislaw's Church, Shamokin. Sally was bridesmaid and my brother Joseph was best man.

Rosemary was born March 12, 1927

Louise was born November 4, 1929

John, Jr. was born January 19, 1932

Bear Valley Colliery shut down in 1939. I went to work at Reliance Colliery, Mt. Carmel, as a miner for three months. I was then appointed as a Coal and Iron Police Officer, where I worked until 1943 when again the coal co. appointed me Timber and Lumber Inspector and Yard Foreman. Again the company wanted to cut down the cost of handling supplies so I moved all supplies closer together with a big savings at Reliance Colliery.

In 1950 I was appointed as Timber and Lumber Inspector and Yard Foreman at Locust Gap Colliery until 1955 - in January the mines shut down.

In March 1955 I started to work at Girard Bank as an attendant in the vault where people store papers and valuables in boxes.

On July 1, 1955 I started to work as a security officer for the University of Pennsylvania. I worked there until 1972 when I retired.

In 1955 my wife, Stella, was ailing. She had a major operation in the Shamokin Hospital.

In 1956 I purchased a home in Philadelphia, 1701 Bergen St. and moved my wife down with me. She then worked for 5 years for the University of Pennsylvania. In 1960 she had a major operation in Hahenmann Hospital. In 1965 she had a major operation in Einstein Hospital.

In 1977 I moved to 6536 Oxford Avenue. In 1982, Oct 7, Stella was admitted to Nazareth Hospital for a check-up. On the night of Oct. 7, 1982 she had a heart attack and came home Nov. 4, 1982. On Dec. 10, 1982 she was admitted again for treatment and came home Dec. 25, 1982.

On April 29, 1983 she again had a heart attack and was taken to J. F. Kennedy Hospital where she died that night. She was laid to rest in St. Stan's Cemetery May 4, 1983, Shamokin, Pa.