

GE Propaganda Going Full Blast

As was expected, GE is engaged in an all-out propaganda effort to confuse and misinform its employees and the general public in the current negotiations.

The last Works News carried two lengthy statements on the negotiations, one signed by L. R. Boulware. They are elaborate attempts to make workers believe that black is white. GE tries to deny the whole experience of 1929, which proved the falseness of GE's theory.

For two years GE has been putting forth the "eat beans, work harder" line, the theory that "greater productivity" for the company's benefit is good for the workers. The result is now told in hard facts — lay-offs, short time, downgrading. But still, to fight for its program of speed-up and extraordinary profits, GE tries to sell the same "lower costs, greater productivity" line. As a result the company contradicts itself and falls back on crude falsehood. Here are specific examples:

Some Boulware Distortions

1. Boulware says a shorter work week with present take-home pay would not put any more pay in the employee's pocket.

The fact is that a shorter work week would reduce the number of lay-offs, mean more people working, more pay in the pockets of all the people to buy goods with.

2. For two years Boulware said raises were no good, because they only caused price increases. Now Boulware complains that this time "employers . . . cannot include in their prices . . . any part" of the wage cost increase.

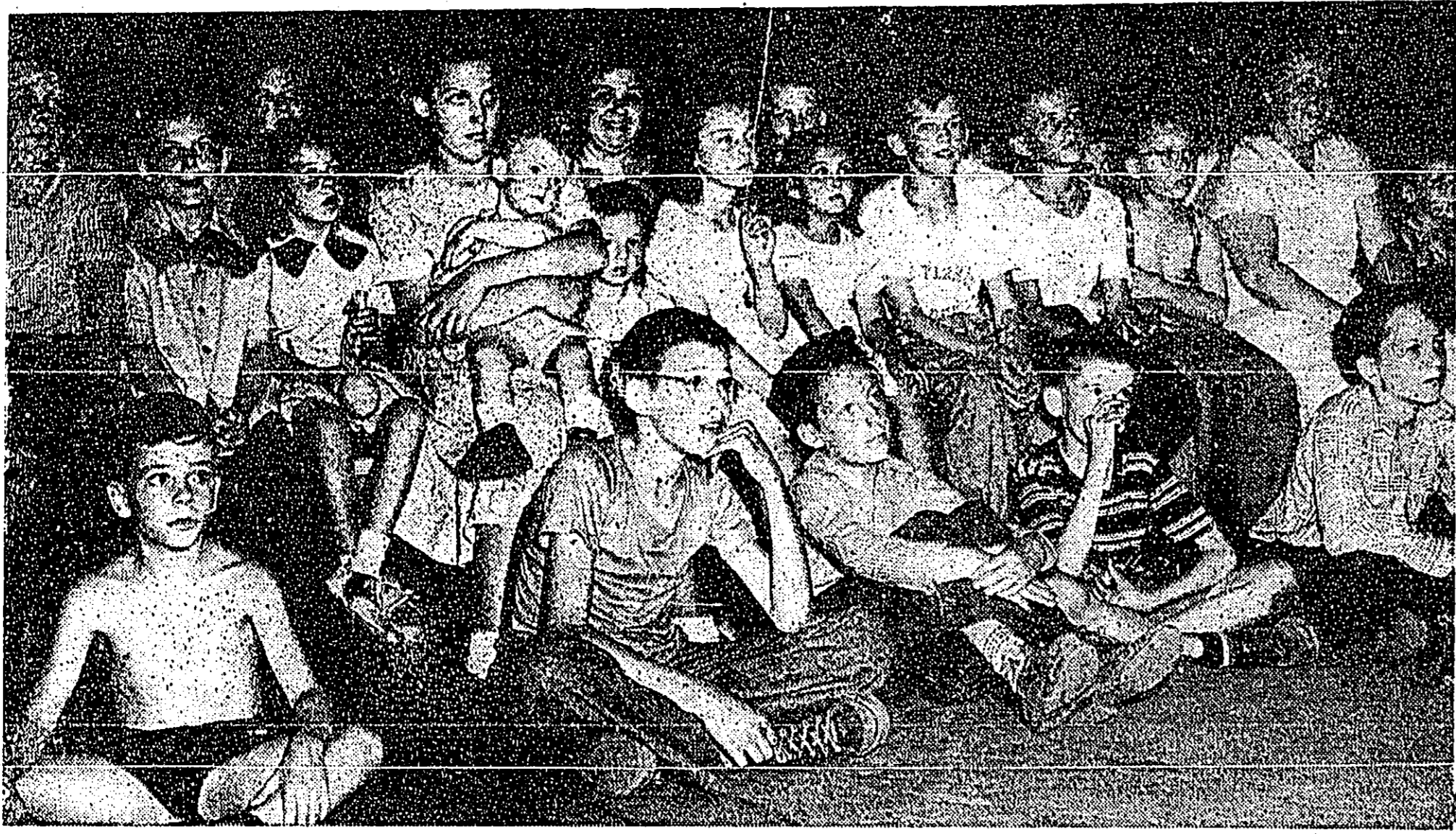
If that is true, that is an excellent reason for getting a raise. It means that, even without price control, employers would have to pay the raises out of their record profits. That is exactly what the country needs.

3. Boulware calls the idea of raises to increase buying power "pump-priming," and says that 93 per cent of the people are employed "at good wages," that they are "making new savings at a surprising rate," and that the trouble is just that buyers are "reluctant."

Most Savings Lower

The fact is there are 5,000,000 unemployed, and that earnings of those still employed are going down. Boulware's statement about savings is just untrue. Government figures show that the savings

301 Field Day Big Success Despite Heat



Part of the enthusiastic audience at the magic and pantomime shows at the Local 301 field day Sunday at Hans Grell's Grove. More pictures of the outing will appear in next week's EU News.

Canadian Workers in Demonstrations; Demand GE End Stalling on Contract

Thousands of General Electric workers in Toronto and Peterboro took part recently in demonstrations demanding that the company make definite proposals in contract renewal negotiations with UE. Management has been stalling since bargaining started May 4 for renewal of the master contract covering Canadian GE plants.

At Toronto nearly 2,000 workers took part in a parade that stretched for almost half a mile. They marched around the plant with banners and a sound truck. At the company's home plant at Peterboro 2,000 workers gathered on

of low income people have gone down steadily from 1945 to 1946 to 1947 and to 1948. Figures are not available for 1949, but even the magazine "Business Week" recently admitted that savings are rising in the hands of the few rich, while the savings of the many are being exhausted. The desperate need, to hold off a depression, is more money in the hands of the people.

The fact that the profits of increased productivity are taken by Big Business is the basic reason for depressions.

4. Boulware talks about a drop in the cost of living.

The truth is that after a tiny drop, living costs have started up again.

But GE thinks that by shouting loud enough it can cover up the truth and can make the American people forget the Hoover depression of the thirties.

Grievance Session On Lay-off Methods

The Local 301 grievance committee met with A. C. Stevens, assistant works manager, on Wednesday afternoon (after this paper went to press), to discuss the many difficulties occurring in connection with lay-offs.

The principal immediate complaint is the continuing failure to place laid-off workers whose service records clearly entitle them to jobs. Women with six years of service and more have not been called back after being out several weeks.

Men with one year of service and more are told in Building 1 that there is no job of any kind for them. This appeared to be the result of some arbitrary ruling by the Personnel Division, contrary to the contract.

Most puzzling development was the word from Personnel to the effect that toolmakers would shortly be cut back to 1942 service, and therefore toolmakers with less service than that would no longer be offered toolmaker jobs, but would be offered machine jobs. Stevens said this appeared to be a misunderstanding.

Meanwhile, lay-offs and "rotation" continued in various parts of the plant, particularly Control, Punch Press Tool and Die, and Porcelain.

Softball Game

The Schenectady All Star girls' softball team beat the Local 301 girls' team 7 to 3 in a game at the 301 field day.

Did You Know?

Six corporations joined the billionaires club in 1948, bringing the total number to 56. The six newcomers are Gulf Oil, Standard Oil of California, Commonwealth Edison, Bethlehem Steel, Ford and American Power and Light.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301

U. E. R. & M. W. A.

C. I. O.

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July 1, 1949

Profits Up — Jobs Down



GE Estimate

Jobless Expected to Reach 1,100 Today

Lay-offs have been continuing in June at the rate of 400 a month, so that about 1,100 are expected to be out of the plant for lack of work by now, according to A. C. Stevens, assistant works manager.

Stevens gave the figures to the union grievance committee in a meeting last week. He said about 550 were laid off in May. From now on lay-offs will continue, but at a lower rate than in June, Stevens said.

Works Manager Lewis J. Male said that by the end of September or October "not many" workers would be left with less than one year's service. This means that by then about 2,000 will have lost their jobs.

In addition to those actually going out, hundreds have been transferred to different jobs, mostly at reduced earnings. Hundreds more

are losing time.

The union grievance committee again protested the delays in placing laid-off persons whose seniority entitles them to jobs. Women with six years' service have been out for weeks, and men with from one to two years' service are being told there is nothing for them now. Male said the personnel department was analyzing the jobs held by short service men and women, and calling back the longer service laid-off workers as promptly as possible. Figures on the situation were promised for this week.

Some of the laid-off workers are being absorbed by the expansion in Turbine, but this will not change the over-all picture above.

Stevens confirmed previous information that toolmakers were being cut back to 1942 service. He said this meant a net reduction of

301 Meets with Marcy On Silicosis Question

While saying that the company had "nothing to hide," Charles G. Marcy, personnel director, last week resisted strongly the union's request for joint union and company action against the dangers of silicosis.

Discussion started last week on the union's grievance growing out of the examination made for the union by Dr. Saul Solomon, New York City lung specialist, which showed that out of 36 men and women from Building 68 who were examined, seven had severe cases of silicosis, and 17 had cases ranging from mild to moderate. The Executive Board of Local 301 called for a joint survey to eliminate or reduce the dust hazard, and for medical examination of all other workers in 68, and others exposed to serious dust hazards, particularly in the foundries and Mica. The union asked that X-rays be made available to doctors named by the union.

GE Defends Conditions

Marcy said that the Porcelain division here is "in good shape in comparison with the porcelain industry," that the company had a survey made two years ago by a team of industrial hygienists, and again in 1948. He said progress was being made against the dust danger by carrying out the experts' recommendations, and that "progress is more important than the present degree" of the illness. He said the company had put in the aluminum dust treatments for silicosis, which were believed to be very helpful. He said that workers concerned about their health could "consult Dr. Vosburgh," (Head company doctor).

Representatives of the groups in Porcelain, Foundries and Mica told Marcy their members did not want to depend on the word of the company medical staff. Marcy repeated he did "not see the advisability of joint investigation."

The union grievance committee called Marcy's attention to the case (Continued on Page 2)

only 60, as there is only that many toolmakers with shorter service. These are being offered machine jobs according to their service.

GE Remains Deaf to Needs Of Employees

General Electric Company negotiators continued last week to maintain an attitude of complete indifference to the needs of employees.

In answer to the UE committee's demand that the company act to reverse the present trend toward a depression, the GE committee said that a situation has been reached where an adjustment must be made.

It was clear that the company meant the workers should be the victims of the "economic adjustment", while the company reaps fat profits.

The UE committee declared that the company's policy of hoarding super-profits would only mean the loss of jobs for more people. The first step on the road back, the UE committee said, must be an increase in the purchasing power of the people who make up the mass market for manufactured goods.

Next Session July 12

After two days of negotiations in which the company repeated its Big Business economic theories, the negotiations were recessed to July 12.

GE admitted that on June 1, 1949 there were 9,000 fewer men and 7,000 fewer women on the hourly payroll than in January 1948. It

(Continued on Page 2)

July Meeting Set

The combined 301 membership and shop stewards meeting for July will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, for all stewards and for first and third shift members and at 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, for second shift members. Both parts of the meeting will be at 301 hall.

No section of the plant will be having a vacation shut-down at the time. The Electronic Tube Division's vacation shut-down will end July 17.

The date of the combined meeting was set by the Executive Board Monday.

SHORTER HOURS and MORE PAY for Job Security

GE Remains Deaf To Workers' Needs

(Continued from Page 1)

tried to belittle these layoffs. The negotiators declared that many more thousands face lay-offs if the company does not change its high price, high profit, low wage and speed-up policies — the Big Business policies which already have caused unemployment for millions in the country, while great numbers of those employed are on short time at low earnings.

Lunch Hour Meetings

Local 301 members last week met in hundreds and thousands outside their buildings to hear reports from Executive Board members on the negotiations and to protest against the company's attitude. The meetings were held at the same time all over the works during the noon lunch hour Thursday, with one meeting during the second shift lunch hour. The members expressed vigorous support for the union's demands. There was particular enthusiasm for the 35-hour week with 40 hours' pay, as a means of reducing the lay-offs and increasing purchasing power.

Union members also have been speaking up on the negotiations at the meetings which the company has been holding by divisions. Top division managers have tried to make it appear that the lay-off situation is not so serious and that the solution lies in the Boulware theories of economics. In most of these meetings union members have taken the floor to point out that the problem is very serious to the workers and that the company can easily help the situation out of its vast profits by agreeing to a shorter work week and higher pay, decent pensions, etc.

3,839 Jobless Reported

Another big increase in the number of workers registered for unemployment insurance in Schenectady was reported June 17. The figure jumped to 3,839 from 3,380 as of June 10.

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It's Another Writer But Same Old Story

GE Vice-President L. R. Boulware gave over his special page in the Works News to a ringer last week. Possibly it was because Boulware's nonsense had become too easy a target, but the official explanation was that the ringer, Lawrence Fertig of the New York World Telegram, had "so clearly presented the two conflicting views of the current difficulties."

The truth is that the New York financial writer did no such thing. He presented the usual Big Business propaganda with a simple trick. The piece thoroughly distorted the arguments of the unions now fighting for more purchasing power to protect the country. It completely left out the one big fact which is the root of all the present trouble—the sky-high profiteering which is making even the profits of 1929 look small.

And by that simple device Fertig arrives at the usual Hoover conclusion that we must cut production costs still further (pay workers still less) to "induce investments in increased production."

It's the old Hoover theory that if we just let Big Business make still bigger profits, the Charlie Wilsons will let the common people have some of the crumbs.

The New York World Telegram is one of the most anti-labor papers. It belongs to the huge Scripps-Howard chain, with papers from coast to coast.

301 Meets with Marcy On Silicosis Question

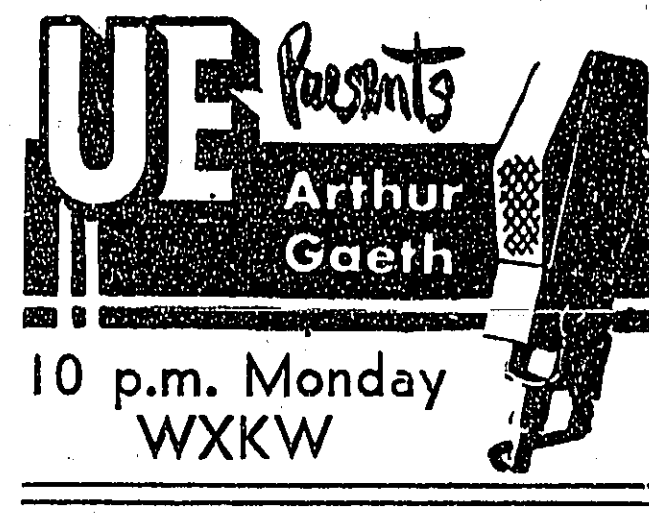
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of a worker in Porcelain who was encouraged to retire, and immediately afterwards was found to be totally disabled by silicosis. The company agreed to workmen's compensation when the union filed a claim. Marcy denied that the company had intended to do the man any injustice.

Discussion was scheduled to continue this week. The union also is asking for special compensation for the silicosis victims.

Representing Local 301 were Shop Stewards Arthur Bertini, Anthony Rainone, and Ernest Costanzo, of Building 68, and Board Members Henry Kaminski, Robert Phillips and Joseph Mangino.

A slip in last week's Electrical Union News made it appear that out of 36 workers examined, 17 had cases of silicosis. The previous issue gave the correct figure, 24 out of 36.



301 Starts Preparing For Primary Elections

Local 301 has requested heads of the Democratic and Republican County Committees to meet with a special committee of the Executive Board so that the union may learn the program of these parties on issues in preparation for county and municipal elections.

The special committee also will contact all individual candidates to ask their positions. Members of this committee are President Frank Kriss, Vice-President William Hodges, Business Agent Leo Jandreau and Board Members William Stewart, Joseph Mangino and James Cognetta. Cognetta was added during the illness of Mangino.

This group reported to the Board Monday that in accordance with previous instructions it had met with a committee of American Labor Party representatives at the ALP's request. The Board found that the ALP program for county and municipal elections is in line with the position of the union of the various issues involved and un-animously approved the program.

The Board instructed the committee to draw up a Local 301 program for county and municipal elections for presentation to the next Board meeting and to the combined 301 membership and stewards meeting this month.

Downs and Kelly Report On Civil Rights Session

Treasurer William Downs and Board Member Joseph Kelly of Local 301 made a detailed, factual report to the Executive Board Monday on the Conference on Civil and Human Rights conducted last Saturday in New York City. The Board accepted the report and voted that it should be presented to the combined membership and stewards' meeting July 19 and 20.

Downs and Kelly were sent as observers by the Board to the conference, which was called by the Civil Rights Congress of New York. Under Board instruction they did not vote at the session, but merely gathered information.

Another Session Asked With GE on MBA Plan

The Local 301 Executive Board has asked for a meeting with Works Manager Lewis J. Male for discussion of the question of the company contributing toward Mutual Benefit Association benefits.

After two weeks of a heavy pressure campaign the General Committee of MBA last Friday passed proposed amendments to the plan by a vote of 74 to 6.

Local 301 has asked the company to have the vote on the amendments delayed, pending discussion between the company and the union of a disability plan on a collective bargaining basis.

The 301 Executive Board met last week on the question with Male and other GE representatives and with C. F. Lane, MBA chairman, and J. C. Meader, MBA secretary. In the absence of Business Agent Leo Jandreau his assistant, Victor Pasche, appeared with the 301 Board.

Lane refused to recommend that the vote on MBA amendments be postponed. He even said he didn't see why he should report the 301 position to the MBA General Committee.

Male insisted that the amendments had been under discussion for a period of years. Lane denied that the proposed changes were a move to bring the company into compliance with the new state Disability Law. Actually a question and answer form sent out by the MBA as propaganda for the amendments mentioned the Disability Act.

Throughout the discussion Male insisted MBA was an "independent" organization, though GE names its principal officers and has veto power over any changes.

Several 301 Board members pointed out that the contents of the proposed amendments were not available to the general MBA membership.

Mrs. William G. Hodges

Mrs. Frances Nora White Hodges, wife of Vice-President William G. Hodges of Local 301, died Tuesday night at Ellis Hospital after a brief illness.

Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. today (Friday) at the James Funeral Home, 123 Mohawk Ave., Scotia. Burial will be in Park Cemetery, Scotia.

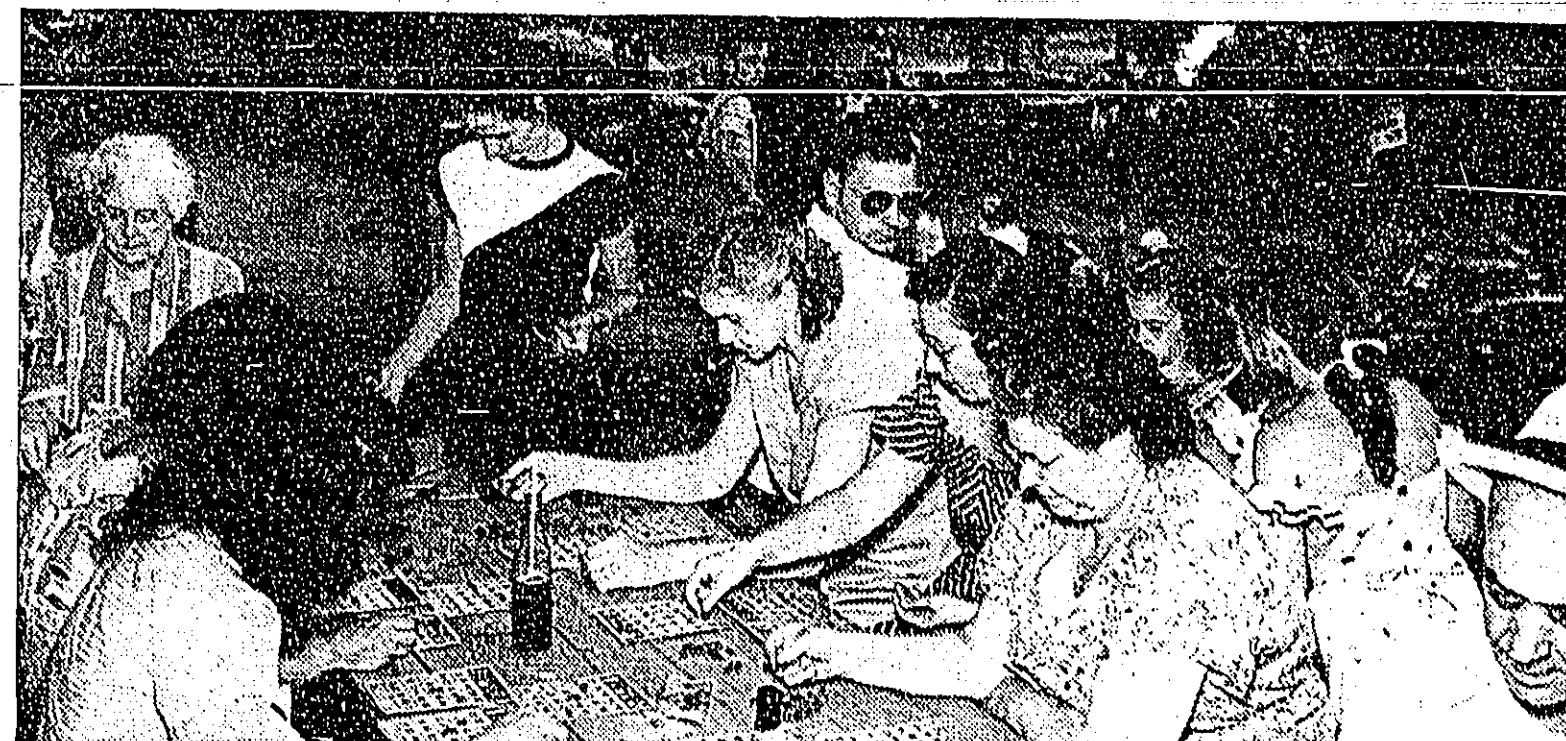
Mrs. Hodges is survived by a daughter, Miss Joan Hodges, Scotia, and three sons, Wilford and David Hodges, both of Scotia, and William Hodges of Collingdale, Pa.



FIELD DAY FUN. An exciting moment in the potato race at the annual 301 outing June 19 at Haus Grell's Grove.



Bucay riding was a popular sport at field day.



Above, bingo players.

At left, a little girl on a big horse.

At right, Mr. and Mrs. George Pratt, 1084 Helderberg Ave., and the automobile they won, the grand prize at field day. He is a 301 member.



Bob Coward, pantomime artist.



Al Moss, singer and guitar player.



The Local 301 girls' softball team ready for its field day game with the Schenectady All Stars.