AND ACCOMPLISH MENTS

COAL CREEK SUIT

Several years ago SOCM filed suit against the Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company claiming they should be required to pay taxes on minerals while the mineral remained under the earth - as opposed to only paying a severance tax on the mineral at the point of the mining of those minerals. This case has been a long time in the courts - and because of it many companies owning large tracts of minerals have not been taxed and the counties have been deprived of that source of revenue. The case was decided in SOCM's favor - though we have no doubt that the coal industry will take it all the way to the Tennessee Supreme Court. Final settlement will mean anywhere from $250,000 to $500,000 in new taxes to counties.

The Mountain Eagle ... Thursday, August 19, 1982

Tennessee judge says landowners must pay taxes on coal

Companies owning thousands of acres of land in Anderson and Morgan Counties, Tennessee, will have to pay property taxes on the value of the underlying coal, according to a recently signed order by Chancellor Robert Brant in Nashville. The decision should bring in between $250,000 and $500,000 in new taxes to the counties.

FIRST LANDS UNSUITABLE PETITION FILED

SOCM has assisted members living on Potato Knob, Campbell County, in filing the first petition for declaring an area unsuitable for mining in the State of Tennessee. The document gives details of the geology and hydrology of the Potato Knob area showing why it would always be a hazard to mine. Also included are past reasons given in permit denials by the State Division of Surface Mining when companies have applied to mine the area.

The final document has been hailed by state officials as a model to be used in future such petitions. The public hearing was held on November 11. A decision should come before the end of the year. If the area is designated unsuitable for mining, people living in the Potato Knob area will never again have to fight another strip mine permit application.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with T.C.A. 59-8-331, the Tennessee Division of Surface Mining will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 11, 1982, at 7:00 p.m. in the Campbell County High SchooL, Route #2, Jacksboro, Tennessee. The hearing officer will receive relevant public comments as they relate to a petition the Commissioner of Conservation has received to designate the Douglas Branch Watershed as unsuitable for all or certain types of coal mining.