

knew if the police came, they wouldn't do one thing to the thugs and Basil Collins for beating up the pickets and firing that machine gun. I knew what **would** be done: the police would arrest **us**. I would have stayed all day and let them fire that machine gun at me if they hadn't called the police. Because when you call in the police all you are doing is calling in Norman Yarbrough's buddies. I left then.

"After that we decided we couldn't protest at High-splint under machine gun fire. So on Tuesday, the next day, we changed our plans. The next morning, Wednesday, we went to Shields. And we're still picketing there."

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I got the idea that Shields was a more neutral sort of place and the picketing would turn out better there. But considering that all the things that Lois had been telling me about had happened only a couple days before, I didn't exactly think I was going to a picnic.

By the time we got there, daylight was breaking through the thick fog. We crossed the tracks and pulled into a small road and were directed into a sort of circle of cars. We were forming a barricade, as I had guessed. Lois and Bob started directing people, telling us what to do and what was going to happen. They seemed to be pretty worried about a certain fellow who was late. Pretty soon he showed. He was driving an old heap of a car, and he parked it close to the tracks and the road. We were going to use this car to block the road to keep the scabs from getting by, just like the other day.

Meanwhile, over behind the barricade, a small group of miners were checking their guns. This was the defense guard for that morning's picket. But in addition to the defense guard, it seemed like nearly everyone else had a gun of some sort—and for good reason.

In Harlan County there is no law, except the law that defends companies like Duke Power and their "right" to shoot down unarmed pickets like Minard Turner. (The goon that shot Minard didn't even have to post bond after he was charged with assault with intent to kill.) The miners