

late. Lawrence Jones was hit in the head. Bruner was grazed by pistol fire while retreating to his truck, but was able to drive away.

The other miners rushed to Jones, who said a few gasping words and then fell silent. They drove immediately to Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Lawrence Jones lived for four days on a hospital operating table with the aid of a life-support machine, while his mother and his 16-year-old wife waited for the inevitable news.

On Saturday, August 31, the mining families of Harlan County came together to lay their fallen brother to rest. That morning, the Brookside men had met to vote on the contract Jones helped bring about. "We'll make them pay for this," said Jerry Johnson, pointing to the casket, "by signing up every mine in Eastern Kentucky."

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As Lawrence Jones lay dying in the hospital, the company began to negotiate with the union in Washington. Duke Power had not sat down with the union since November 1973. But now it knew that it better sign a contract as soon as it could, or it would have a bloody war on its hands with the miners in Harlan County—and not just in Harlan County.

The murder of this young man, coming after the long bitter struggle, would be a new rallying cry to all the miners throughout the coal fields of the whole country. (Actually Duke tried to create the impression that they didn't want any more of the miners to get killed. But nobody in eastern Kentucky would believe such a thing.)

Within sixteen hours from the time negotiations began, a contract was signed. It was a good one.

The Brookside strikers won the standard UMWA contract, which includes: a mine safety committee, pay from the time they enter the mine (which is often twenty minutes or more before they begin to work), job security, seniority, a genuine grievance procedure, decent medical program and retirement plan.

The company was forced to reinstate all miners discharged since the strike began, including Mickey Messer, the president of the Brookside local, who had been fired for union activities before the strike began in May 1973.

Eastover agreed to join with the UMWA in seeking