

**“It Does Him Much Good,” *United Mine Workers Journal*, October 15, 1934, 9.**

To the Editor of the Journal:

You don't know how much good it does me to get one of your papers and hear the some of the people have been freed from bondage. I hope it soon comes to me. I haven't earned a dollar since April 1, when the strike was called at Dant, Va. We can't get work with the Clinchfield Coal Co., although I worked for them for seven years, but they won't come under the union. I belonged to the company union for years and when I told the boss I was dissatisfied, he said, "If you're not satisfied, take your bucket and go home"—and that was all I could do. I thank God and President Roosevelt for the time which is here when our people have free privilege to do as they choose. While it hasn't done me any good yet, I hope to see the time when I can get a job and be free and not have to be a company skate. I want to thank you for sending me the Journal. It does me much good.

**Charles W. Jessee, Local Union No. 6606, Dant, Va.**

**“News and Views from the Rank and File,” *United Mine Workers Journal*, February 1, 1935, 9.**

John Vanusek, Local Union No. 6292, Republic, Pa., says:

“NRA is to employ more men in industry, to obtain more purchasing power. There can be no recovery until every man who wants to work is at work producing. It takes cooperation to build a solid U.M.W. of A. Union. To do big things it must be organized 100 percent—one solid union for all the coal miners of North America. We have taken our oath and sworn that we will be members of the United Mine Workers of America. If we keep together we will have peace and work in harmony. This union has done more in

one year to help the miners of Fayette County than all the laws in the last 40 years. The miner has been freed from slavery in Fayette County. For years he loaded coal by the acre, but today coal is loaded by the New Deal; checkweighmen on the tipples and workers paid by the ton; the right to collective bargaining. I am thankful to our leaders and thankful to President Roosevelt for Section 7-a of the National Recovery Act, which gives us the right to free speech and to be members of the United Mine Workers of America.”

*Note: “Dant, Virginia” refers to the town of Dante, Virginia, and is phonetically how miners from the town would have pronounced the name. It is unclear from records whether Jessee was white or Black, though presumably he was from the United States. John Vanusek was almost certainly Slavic, though it is unclear if he was born in the United States or had migrated there from Eastern Europe. Pennsylvania had the highest concentration of immigrant miners in the early twentieth century, mostly from southern and eastern Europe.*