



HSSA



PRESS RELEASE:



Model: Marion 5960-3 Crawler Shovel
Name: "Big Digger"
Service: 1969-1986
Scrapped: March 1992
Weight: 9,338 tons
Bucket: 125-CY

To whom it may concern:

"The 1360 Experience," in partnership with the Historical Stripping Shovel Archive, are proud to announce that, together, we have been able to save two shovel crawler pads that were previously pinned together. These pads were once installed on the crawler of a 5960 shovel between 1969 to 1991. They were used for a short period of time and were then removed due to sizing and wearing issues of the pads. The pads then were then unearthed, by either accident or luck, during an excavation of the property. Then in the mid 1990's the pads were then moved to a concrete pad located at the front of property and were left until now. These pads have been split apart and will be restored so that they may be put on display at separate locations in the states of Indiana and Kentucky.

These crawler pads are, unofficially, 36 inches by 98 inches and have a estimated weight of 4,200 pounds each. Pad number 158 will be having a homecoming, as it will being returned to Lynnville, Indiana. This pad will be displayed at the Museum of the Coal Industry. Pad number 206 will remain in Muhlenberg County and will be put on display at the "Old" River Queen Mine Complex where the "Big Digger" crawled and stripped material for the progress of man and our great country.

These pads will be able to help to educate others about the scope and sheer size of the shovel itself and will be evidence of the incredible engineering and ingeniousness of mankind. These machines are etched into the distant memories of small town communities and the souls of the miners who worked on and around them. This machine, as well as others, has helped build Small COAL Town America. It has also helped the United States of America lead the way in Industry and secure its place as a superpower in the world's view, one ton at a time. This fact will never be forgotten with the continued donation of artifacts of this nature. We are currently in the process of securing other artifacts for the Museum of the Coal Industry and look forward to being able to let the general public see other high quality historical items, such as these pads.

Thank you to all those who were able to help make our efforts possible, including: Greg Armstrong, Jerry Southard, Andy Thomison, Gene Wilson, Mac McGee, Armstrong Coal, and everyone who helped with the logistics of moving an object of this scope, size and importance. Also, a special thank you to the people from the Smithsonian Institute.

