

Coal Mine

The last operating coal mine in Saginaw County was in Swan Creek Township. The mine was operated by an eight man partnership under the name of Swan Creek Mining Co. Its nearly 40 miners were affiliated with John L. Lewis's United Mine Workers.

The Swan Creek mine was producing 100 tons of coal daily. At that time coal produced there was sold directly at the mine. Trucks from small Saginaw Valley Towns came to get loads of soft coal-lump, egg and stoker varieties.

The Swan Creek mine's shaft was sunk in 1941. Once the business was a 13-man partnership, but death had thinned the roster. Its miners were veterans of Saginaw Valley's once prosperous coal industry which, in the 1950's had faded into oblivion except for the Swan Creek mine where the coal was hoisted up from a depth of nearly 200 feet.

Average age of Swan Creek's coal diggers was 58. At that time, Charlie Spencer was the oldest at 68. The mine's general manager was John (Jack) Milano.

Swan Creek miners were paid union scale at that time. Whatever gains the UMW got from the operators in the nation's major coal-producing states were passed along to the diggers at the Swan Creek mine. Their local formal designation was the St. Charles UMW local 24 and their president was Theodore Wend.

The mine, operated by the Swan Creek Mining Company, closed in 1952.