

ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: www.LouisvilleItalians.com

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kentucky – indiana sud

messaggio dal presidente

Every chance I get, I try to encourage members of the IAA to tell folks in the community about our wonderful organization and our efforts to promote our Italian heritage. However, I also know that we can have a greater impact in our efforts to increase our **community awareness** if we combine our voices in a unified chorus. An excellent way to do this will be on Saturday, April 11th at 11:00 a.m. when the IAA will once again participate in the **Frankfort Ave. Easter Parade**. The Easter Parade is one of my favorite events because it is so much fun and a great way for the IAA to get some high visibility in the community. Basically all you have to do to participate in this parade is to show up. As a participant in the parade, you can walk, ride a bike, or even drive your car. **I am encouraging all IAA members and their children, grandchildren, relatives, friends, and co-workers to join us to walk in this one-mile parade.** For those who will be participating, I would like for you to wear as much green, white, and red as possible. In addition to the IAA banner and Italian and American flags, the IAA will also provide green, white, and red streamers and balloons to decorate your car or bike or yourself.

For those of you who are worried about the physical strain of participating in this parade, I should add that this parade is only about one mile and moves at an extremely slow and easy pace—its like walking at the mall, taking only about 75 minutes from start to finish. During this **leisurely stroll**, those walking with the IAA will be tossing candy to all of children who gather to watch this very family friendly parade. The IAA will also provide the candy.

For this event, we will **gather at 10:30** a.m. in front of the entrance to St. Joseph Children's Home at 2823 Frankfort Ave. As has become our tradition, **after the parade**, we will gather at a nearby restaurant to have some lunch, relax, and socialize.

I hope you will join me and other IAA member to walk in the Easter Parade as a way to show your support of your Italian heritage and enhance the visibility of the IAA in the community. You can find more details regarding this event in the "Che Passa!" (What's Happening!) feature on p.2. I look forward to walking in the parade with you.

Warmest regards,
Bernardo J. Carducci, President

Next Event

Frankfort Ave. Easter Parade – 4/11

(see p. 2 for details)

The Life Of A Coal-Miner – p. 5

EASTRE Becomes EASTER

As it happened, the pagan festival of **Eastre** occurred at the same time of year as the Christian observance of the Resurrection of Christ. It made sense, therefore, to alter the festival itself, to make it a Christian celebration as converts were slowly won over. The early name, Eastre, was eventually changed to its modern spelling, **Easter**.



The **Easter Bunny** is not a modern invention. The symbol originated with the pagan festival of Eastre. The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. **Easter in Italy** church bells ring joyfully during the year. But the bells stop ringing on the Thursday before Good Friday. They are silent for a few days while people remember the death of Jesus. On Easter Sunday morning, the bells ring out, telling people that Jesus is alive again.

Also, in Italy many children wake up on Easter Sunday and find **eggs** scattered about their rooms. They look in the nests they have placed in their yards or gardens and find Easter eggs in them. Also, **olive branches** are used on Palm Sunday; **pretzels** were originally an Easter food to represent arms crossed in prayer. **Lent** is preceded by **Carnviale** that begins in January and lasts until Ash Wednesday, but the merriest is that of **Martedi Grasso** or **Shrove Tuesday**, when pancakes are eaten. **Domenica delle Palme** or **Palm Sunday**, people take palm and olive branches to church to be blessed. When everyone is in the church, the doors are closed to represent the gates of Jerusalem. The priests knock three times, and the gates are then flung open in welcome, and they enter amid joyous music and the waving of palms, this is done to commemorate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. **Giovedi Santo** or **Holy Friday**, many churches re-enact the ceremony of the washing of the feet at the altar. **Easter** or **La Pasqua** is a joyous day.... First the morning mass then the Easter dinner. The most important dish is agnellino, roasted baby lamb.

HAPPY EASTER

Che Passa! (What's Happening)

MARK IT DOWN:

April 11 – Frankfort Ave. Easter Parade (details below).
 May 15 – BOCCE EVENT at Norton's Common.
 June 2nd – Italian Travelogue, UL-University Club.
 June 6 – Special Olympics – Bocce ... IAA referees
 July – Smith-Berry Winery Tour.
 August 8 – St. Joseph's Charity Picnic.
 September 4-6 – International WorldFest (IAA involvement)
 (NOTE: no IAA FESTA in September 2009.)
 October – Italian Heritage Month – Mass (Columbus Day)
 November 18 – IAA Elections – Dinner (Clifton's)
 December – IAA Christmas Gathering

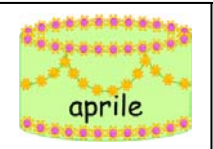
FRANKFORT EASTER PARADE ...IAA to participate in the Frankfort Ave. Easter Parade, Saturday, April 11, gather at 10:30; you can invite your family & friends to participate in the parade with you ... pets, too. If you don't want to walk in the parade, you can also ride a bike, pull your kids or pets in a wagon, or drive a motor scooter, motorcycle, car, or pickup truck, which we encourage you to decorate in red, green, and white, or come sit along the parade route to cheer the IAA on! If you are interested in participating in the parade or want more information, please contact Bernardo Carducci by phone at 812-282-3938 or email at bcarducc@ius.edu.

As is our tradition, we will meet somewhere (TBD) for lunch after the parade. **Parade Time** - 11:00 a.m.
Where to meet: we gather at 2862 Frankfort Avenue, which is just south of the entrance of St. Joe' Children Home between 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. **What to bring:** IAA members are encouraged to bring a few bags of bulk wrapped hard candy to toss to the many children & adults who line the parade route. **Parade route:** from Stiltz Ave. to Haldeman Avenue, which is near the School for the Blind; this route is about a mile and a half in length, moves at a very, very slow pace.

“DUST BUNNIES” TIPS

Looking for a more natural way of cleaning that's equally effective, consider**Lemon juice** is an all around natural cleaning wonder. With it, you can remove lime scale, make windows and mirrors shine, polish copper or brass, clean kitchen and bathroom surfaces, and remove sweat stains. Lemon Juice is one of the strongest food acids, marked by its sour taste. Because the pH is so low, lemon juice can kill most household bacteria, while also leaving your home smelling fresh. **Castile soap** might sound fancy, but it's really not. Liquid, powder, or bars of soap that are unscented are biodegradable and can clean just about anything. Castile soap, however, can be made with just oils, lye, and water, so you can be sure it will get your home clean without leaving any buildup. Thanks to some basic chemistry, soap is what makes these oils stick to your damp cloth so they can be easily wiped away. **Also**, consider borax or boric acid, white vinegar, washing soda, cornstarch.

BIRTHDAYS COMPLEANNO FELICE !!



Bianchi, John 4-27	
Francesconi, Charles 4/3	
Francesconi, Amber 4/28/97	Cordini, Roz 4-30
Paglino, Vincent 4-27	Hanka, Marty 4-26
Mattei, Mary Rose 4/13	Norvell, Kathleen 4/29
Vassallo, Russell 4/24	Vassallo, Virginia 4/11

BRAIDED EASTER BREAD

Ingredients :

Serving this classic bread on Easter is a wonderful way to start an annual tradition.

- 2 pkgs. dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 6 soft-boiled, dyed eggs (nontoxic dyes only)
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. water



Preparation:

In a large mixing bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warm water. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a saucepan, add the milk and heat until just warm. Pour the mixture into the bowl with the yeast. Add the sugar, eggs and salt, and stir well. Mix in the flour, one cup at a time, until a soft dough is formed. Turn the dough onto a floured surface, adding flour if the dough is too sticky to handle. Knead until it becomes elastic. Place it in a lightly oiled bowl, cover, and set in a warm, draft-free area until doubled in size (about 1 hour). Punch down the dough. Divide it into three equal parts and roll each piece into a 20-inch-long strand. Lay the strands side by side and gently braid them. (To avoid tearing the dough, braid from the middle out to an end; repeat with the other side.) Place the woven dough in a wreath shape on a greased cookie sheet, tucking the ends under. Sink the eggs into the dough. Cover and let rise until double in size. Beat 1 egg with 1 teaspoon water and brush the wash over the dough. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Giro d'Italia 2009 - Teams

The Giro (May 9 – 31) field will include a maximum of 22 nine-man teams. Participation is dependent on adhesion to the biological passport program (anti-doping). The 20 teams selected thus far are:

- ACQUA&SAPONE - CAFFE' MOKAMBO (Ita)** • AG2R LA MONDIALE (Fra) • ASTANA (Kaz) • BBOX BOUYGUES TELECOM (Fra) • CAISSE D'EPARGNE (Spa) • CERVELO TEST TEAM (Svi) • **GARMIN - SLIPSTREAM (USA)** • **ISD (Ita)** • **LAMPRE-NGC (Ita)** • **LIQUIGAS (Ita)** • LPR BRAKES - FARNESE VINI (Irl) • QUICK STEP (Bel) • RABOBANK (Ola) • SILENCE – LOTTO (Bel) • SERRAMENTI PVC DIQUIGIOVANNI – ANDRONI GIOCATTOLI (Ven) • **TEAM COLUMBIA – HIGH ROAD (USA)** • TEAM KATUSHA (Rus) • TEAM MILRAM (Ger) • TEAM SAXO BANK (Dan) • XACOBEO GALICIA (Spa)

EVENTS IN ITALY

SCOPPIO del CARRO - Explosion of the Cart - Piazza del Duomo, Florence; Every year on Easter Sunday, perfectly sane Florentine citizens gather in Piazza del Duomo to watch a dove-shaped rocket, called the "Colombina", fly out of the famous Duomo and ignite a huge wooden cart-structure in the square outside.

FIORI e SAPORI – April 5; beautiful flower displays transform Milan's historical Naviglio Grande into a carnival of fragrances and colours during Fiori e Saporì (Flowers and Taste), the annual flower and gardening show that attracts cultivators and retailers from all over the country.

PASQUA del CANOTTAGGIO; April 4-5; is an important rowing regatta held at Easter time, bringing together university teams from all over the world at the Idropark Fila (part of the Milan University sports complex).

GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION IN ROME; the Pope leads a solemn torchlit procession, the Via Crucis, from the Colosseum up the Monte Palatino, reenacting the 14 Stations of the Cross, from Jesus' death sentence to the placement of his body in the tomb.

VATTIENTI PROCESSION - in Nocera Terinese, Easter celebrations peak with the Vattienti Procession. In a tradition begun in the 13th century, the Vattienti flagellate themselves and offer their blood to Holy Mary. On Saturday morning, a procession carries a wooden Pieta' through the tortuous alleys of the ancient village. Then, to the notes of funeral marches and dialectal dirges, groups of three run through the crowd to a crucifix covered with red ribbons. The Vattiente kneels down and beats himself while the wine carrier pours wine on his bleeding wounds. He then paints a bloody cross on the naked chest of the Ecce Homo, a Latin name for Jesus.

DANCE of the DEVILS – April 5-12; every Easter, the cosmic struggle between good and evil rages in the remote Sicilian village of Prizzi, where villagers wearing large and terrifying iron masks perform the Dance of the Devils, an archaic festival of medieval origins.

EVENTS IN U.S.A

ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL - St. Louis (Wash. U); April 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; Brown Hall 100, Washington University in St. Louis, Hoyt Drive just off Forsyth Blvd. Organized in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago and the National Italian American Foundation, the Italian Film Festival—now in its fifth year—features some of the best recent Italian



films. Among the films on this year's program: "La ragazza del lago" (*The Girl by the Lake*); "Notturmo bus" (*Night Bus*); "Il vento fa il suo giro" (*The Wind Blows Round*); "La giusta distanza" (*The Right Distance*); and "Rosso come il cielo" (*Red Like The Sky*).

Italian American Reconciliation - April 17 - May 2 at The Warehouse Theatre, Greenville, SC, a humorous portrayal of the challenges that often accompany love and romance ... a quest of a passionate Italian man to recapture the heart of the woman he loves, with the help of his loyal but inept sidekick.

RETIRE TO ITALY?

Pro & Cons

PROS:

1. The savoring of life; la dolce vita is still alive and well in Italy.
2. The sense of community and the noisy warmth of family life.
3. With 3,000 museums and 60% of the world's art, Italy is culture heaven.
4. Good, affordable health care.
5. The mild Mediterranean weather.

CONS:

1. The dollar's fall against the euro makes Italy expensive. (Although the dollar has been gaining strength again.)
2. The wheels of bureaucracy turn excruciatingly slowly.
3. Need to be in pretty good shape; Italy is not disabled- or wheelchair-friendly.
4. Great Italian food, but little variety in ethnic dining.
5. Corruption: Italy does not get high marks. (research by Kathy McCabe with American expats)

HOUSE WARMING GIFTS

Thinking optimistically about someone getting into a new home at this time, or, perhaps, someone who received news that they will get to keep their house, the tradition of giving a homeowner a gift goes back centuries. In today's standards many people might find these gifts a bit peculiar, but there is significance behind each item that will mean more to a new homeowner than any gift you could give them; these include:

Item / Gift Significance

- Bread** You will never go hungry.
- Broom** Sweep away the evil; your house will always be clean.
- Candle** You will always have light.
- Coin** Bring good fortune for the year.
- Honey** Represents the sweetness of life.
- Knife** Protect against intruders.
- Olive Oil** Health, Light and believe it or not, keep your husband faithful.
- Penny** Keep the friend from ever being at the end of the knife.
- Plant** You will always have life.
- Rice** Sign of fertility.
- Salt** Represents life's tears; you can also place a pinch of salt at the threshold of each door and window for good luck; Mend all wounds.
- Wine** Never go thirsty; your home brings you happiness and joy.
- Wood** Your life/home will always have stability, harmony, and peace.

Give that someone a gift, and let them know its meaning.

PICCIRILLI brothers were a family of renowned marble carvers who carved a large number of the most significant marble sculptures in the United States, including the colossal Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

TRIVA - ITALY

1. What significant development began in 1861?

Answer: Italy's Unification.

Italian Unification, also known as the "**Risorgimento**", was a historical process by which the Kingdom of Sardinia (ruled by Savoy dynasty - capital Turin) conquered the Italian peninsula including, among other parts, of the Kingdom of Two Sicily's. This unification of Italian City States happened in stages. **Count Camillo di Cavour** became prime minister of the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1852. It was his leadership and policies that led to the unification of Italy in little more than a decade. **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, commander of the 1000 volunteer "red-shirts"(the so-called "Spedizione dei Mille") provided the military muscle necessary to free Naples and Sicily from Bourbon rule in 1860, while **Giuseppe Mazzini** provided the intellectual wing of the struggle. But certainly Camillo di Cavour was the political and diplomatic force most directly responsible for Italy's unification. He helped to establish **Vittorio Emanuele II** as the first king of the newly born Italian nation-state in 1861.

2. Why is the number 17 considered unlucky in Italy? In Italian culture, the number 17 is considered unlucky. When viewed as the Roman numeral, XVII, it is then changed anagrammatically to VIXI, which in the Latin language it translates to "I have lived", the perfect tense implying "My life is over". (c.f. "Vixerunt", Cicero's famous announcement of an execution.) In Italy, it is not uncommon to notice that buildings do not have 17th floor, hotels do not have a room 17. The Italian airline carrier, Alitalia, does not have a seat 17. Renault sold its "R17" model in Italy as "R177".

3. Which of the following do NOT match?

- Florence - Michaelangelo's David
- Rome - Arno River
- Venice - Piazza San Marco
- Pompeii - Mt. Vesuvius

4. Which is the largest lake in Italy? Answer is Lake Garda.

5. Name the longest river in Italy? Answer is the Po River.

6. What play, written by Luigi Pirandello, has characters including The Stepdaughter and The Father?

- "The Game of Roles"
- "The Family of Abrazio"
- "Six Characters in Search of an Author"
- "The Late Mattia Pascal"

7. It's famous for its houses dug into the mountain, called 'I Sassi' (the Boulders). What's the name of this town in the South of Italy?

- Matera
- Enna
- Salerno
- Palermo

8. What film by Fellini made the word "paparazzi" a synonym of "photo-reporter"?

- La Dolce Vita
- Amarcord
- Roma
- 8 ½

answers →

ITALIAN LESSIONS IDIOMS

As any other language, Italian too is rich of idiomatic expressions. Some of them are 'national', i.e. they are used throughout the country by standard Italian speakers (as opposed to those used when speaking in dialect). Unlike proverbs, which are used as stock sentences, idiomatic expressions must fit the context of the sentence in terms of number, gender, verb tenses, etc.

prendere fischi per ~ prendere lucciole per lanterne fiaschi

Literal translation: to mistake fireflies for lanterns ~ to mistake whistles for wine bottles.

English equivalent: to get hold of the wrong end of the stick.

The first expression is clearly understood: fireflies glowing in the dark can be mistaken for faraway lanterns.

The other idiom, instead, is based on the sound of its words: fischi (whistles) sounds not too different from fiaschi (wine-bottles, flasks). Spoken Misunderstandings? Mistakes?

Ieri avete fatto gli esercizi coi piedi, cercate di migliorare.

Yesterday you did the exercises very sloppily, try to improve.

Un testo tradotto coi piedi.

A very badly translated text.

essere come (sembrare) due gocce d'acqua

Literal translation: to be like (to look like) two drops of water. *English equivalent:* to be perfectly identical.

This idiom is based on the common notion that all drops of water are identical in shape and look like each other. This expression can be used either for people (i.e. twins, look alikes, etc.) or for objects. Sometimes this idiom is somewhat exaggerated, being used with a meaning of "similar" rather than "really identical".

Che ha delle orecchie grandi, porta i piaceri di Pasqua, e va "l'hippity-esplosione, l'hippity-esplosione, l'hippity-esplosione"?

Un: L'Elefante di Pasqua.

What has big ears, brings Easter treats, and goes "hippity-BOOM, hippity-BOOM, hippity-BOOM"?

A: The Easter Elephant.

Answers: 3.b 6.c 7.a 8.a

**Remember
Italians also speak
with their hands**



THE LIFE OF A COAL-MINER

In Loving Memory by surviving daughters Rosalie Machetta Castagno of Louisville, Kentucky; and Beatrice Machetta Jackson of Darien, Connecticut
Daughters of John and Maria Demichelis Machetta

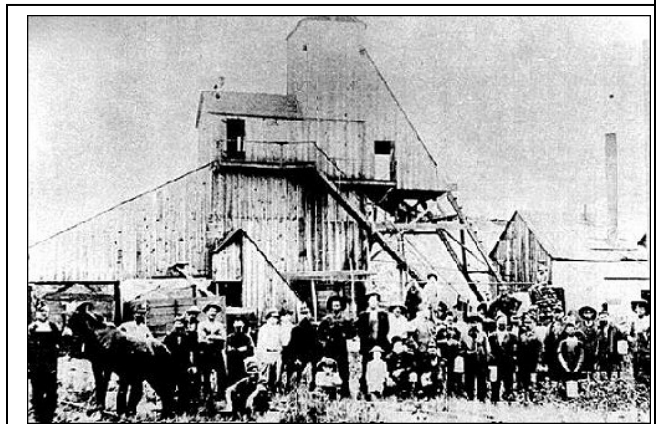
John Machetta and his bride Maria Demichelis Machetta came to this country from the **Piedmont area of northern Italy**. They sailed from Le Harve France on the ship *La Provence* and landed at Ellis Island on December 20th, **1908**. Soon after their arrival and after clearing with the immigration service, they departed for Illinois where relatives and their sponsor lived.

After spending a few months in Illinois, work for miners was limited; they decided to relocate in Southeast Kansas. They chose to live in **East Mineral (Kansas)** where our father began his long years in the coal mines in the surrounding area. His first employment was with the **Mackie Clemmons Coal Mining Company** near by. Our three brothers James, Barney, and Charles were born in East Mineral. James the eldest also worked in the coal mines for a short time. He as well as our other brothers is now deceased.

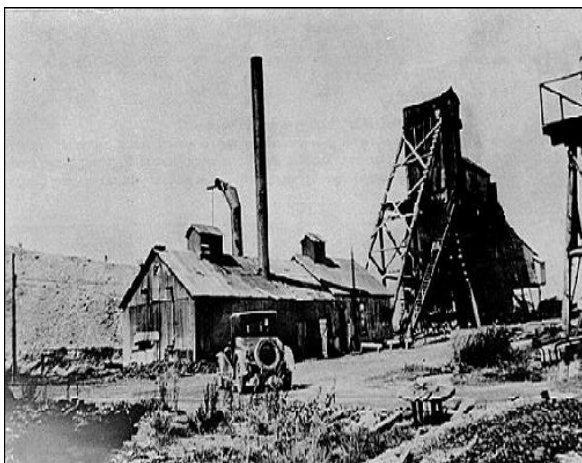
In 1918, in order to be closer to his work, the family moved to **East Chicopee** where he went to work for the **Hamilton Coal Mining Company**. In his spare time he lent a helping hand in the construction of the public grade school in Chicopee. The construction of the school was completed in the summer of 1922 in time for the fall opening of school.

We remember our father telling us how he made use of a **horse and buggy** to get to and from the mine each day. During winter storms it would be necessary to use a shield for protection from the wind and blowing snow. He traveled many miles using the horse and buggy until the arrival of the automobile.

Our **home in Chicopee** was located on three large lots, which gave ample room for a garden, fruit trees, and a grape arbor. Our father grew a large garden during the season. Our mother canned fruits and vegetables to help feed us during the winter months. They also had cows, raised chickens, and hogs. The pigs were butchered and processed into delicious sausage, and other cuts including the making of lard. Some lard was further processed into soap. Butter and cheese were made from cows' milk. Excess milk and eggs were sold to neighbors in order to supplement income.



Southeast Kansas Coal Mine



Southeast Kansas Coal Mine

In the early forties our mother was concerned about the hard labor involved in working as a coal-miner as well as the danger involved in working underground. She encouraged our father to change his type of employment. World War II had just begun and there were construction jobs available in the area. He was able to find work as a laborer at the **Jayhawk Works of the Army Ammo Plant** near Crestline. He worked there a couple of years when a friend, who was part owner in a coal mine near Cherokee, asked him to return to work in the **Kruger Mine**. His reputation of being a hard and safe worker and his love for being a miner overcame his concern of hard work and danger.

Con't *THE LIFE OF A COAL-MINER*

Even though our parents didn't have many material possessions, they showed a wealth of **compassion toward their neighbors**. They were always ready to help when needed. One of their neighbors happened to be a blind couple; they made sure this couple had the necessities to survive. Our mother prepared food at other times for neighbors who were ill. They assisted another family who had difficulty with the English language in planning her husband's funeral. Our father could speak three languages fluently: English, Italian, and French. Our mother spoke English, Italian, and some French. We were very fortunate that our father never suffered any serious injuries or respiratory ailments while working in the coal mines. He was a devoted member of the United Mine Workers Union. In 1939 our father and our mother **became US citizens**. To receive their citizenship papers they had to recite the Preamble of the Constitution. Upon receiving their citizenship, they **never failed to vote** in both primary and general elections. Their names appear on the **Immigrant Wall at Ellis Island**. Our father's name is to appear on the **Miners Memorial** constructed in Pittsburg, Kansas.

In 1963 our mother passed away at the age of 73. It wasn't until 1971 that our father passed away at the age of 88. They lived long enough to see the birth of **19 grandchildren** and several great-grand children. We loved them with all of our hearts and to this day we miss them very much.

Rosalie Machetta Castagno and Beatrice Machetta Jackson).



Miners Memorial
Pittsburg, KS

Croweburg Coal Camp (Southeast Kansas)



Part of Croweburg (KS) Camp as it existed between 1910 and 1920. "**Crackerbox**" houses are in the foreground and **squarish** houses appear in the background. The two buildings, on the hill, near the right, were school houses.

Coal Mining – Southeast Kansas

Deposits of bituminous coal are widespread in the Pennsylvanian rocks of southeastern Kansas, with coal production recorded from all but two counties having Pennsylvanian rocks present at or near the surface. Both deep mining and surface mining methods were used in the past to win the coal from at least 20 different coal beds. The most important coal mining in the state was in southeast Kansas where coal beds were within Cherokee, Crawford, and Bourbon counties. Another area of extensive deep mining was the Kansas State Prison Mine at Lansing that used convict labor, and this mine closed in 1947. The old longwall mining system was used for the deep mining in Leavenworth and Osage counties as compared to the room-and-pillar mining system used in southeast Kansas coal mines.