

## **Legacy**

The legacy of those who fought and died in the 1913 strike is evident in workplace rights enjoyed today.

Since 1914 the UMWA, and Local 9856, have continued to actively wage strikes to protect their rights. Educational outreach supports such efforts. The Women's Auxiliary of Local 9856 maintains the Ludlow Memorial, provides scholarships for the sons and daughters of coal miners, and hosts students and interns from around the nation.

Miners lost the strike but paved the way for labor reform. The coalfield strike ended in December, 1914, when the UMWA was forced to abandon its organizing efforts. The miners' actions led to important changes in American labor relations. The deaths of women and children outraged the American public and refocused national attention. Corporate policies turned from violent confrontations, to negotiated settlements. "Public Relations" became a priority for Big Business.

What happened at Ludlow remains a powerful part of labor history. History and archaeology are working together to keep alive the public memory of what happened. They remind us that the rights of working people have often been won at a terrible cost. Unions continue to ensure workers' rights are not lost. Today, Ludlow stands as a symbol for those who carry on the struggle for basic rights and dignity in the workplace. The UMWA educates, fights for and supports workers and their families.