

Gilberton Coal Company



Gilberton Coal Company, located in Gilberton, PA was founded in 1940 by John B. Rich. This marked the beginning of one of the most successful ventures in coal operations in the history of the United States. John B. Rich immediately constructed the Mammoth breaker where the company assumed operations of mining and coal processing. Keeping up with the times, he replaced back-breaking labor with the most modernistic machines in the world. This not only increased the speed of the production of coal but also made the task of mining much easier and enjoyable.

John B. Rich loved machinery and surrounded his company with the biggest equipment built for the industry. It wasn't unusual to find him lending a hand should some of the equipment break down. In 1957, Gilberton Coal purchased the biggest shovel in the world. It was valued at one and a half million dollars. This shovel could take a 32 cubic yard bite each time it would dig into the earth.

Perhaps the key to Gilberton Coal's success was John Rich's motto "Nothing other than the best be shipped out." To make sure that only real coal was shipped and not rock or dirt mixed with the coal. Mr. Rich had two laboratories installed which made double inspections of all the coal leaving the plant.

Today the Gilberton Coal Company office is still the hub of intense and diverse business operations. It is maintained as the home office for many of the Rich Family of Companies.

————— **A RICH FAMILY COMPANY** —————