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After the whole was shot in the wall Homer's parents were casual about it. They just talked about how much it would cost to fix things and how soon they could get it done. They didn't even blink an eye that Homer's dad might have been killed if he hadn't leaned over at the right moment.

The town became split when the union went on strike. All the company people versus the union members. Worked stopped at the mine, so Homer couldn't get his nozzles made. He decided he would try them himself. That didn't work out so a machinist snuck in and made everything for him. The only thing that brought the town together was BCMA.

Homer was picked to go to the science fair and represent his school. At the first fair over in Welch they were able to take first place for their rockets. After that they had to go to another fair in Bluefield. At Bluefield there was a lot more competition but they still pulled out a win. They were going to nationals.

During the strike Homer's parents left town because Homer's mom was buying a retirement house at Myrtle Beach. Homer realized his future, after his cat died.