

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1963

Miners Fighting Over Beryllium

U.S. Marshal Is Dispatched To Utah Area Where 2 Companies Clash On Claim Sites

DELTA, Utah, Feb. 9 (AP)—A federal judge Saturday dispatched a U.S. marshal to a remote area of western Utah where two mining firms have been waging a small war over disputed beryllium mining claims.

At the same time, Judge Willis Ritter issued restraining orders against both the Anaconda Co. and the Ranchers Exploration and Development Co., to keep them from trespassing on each others claims until the dispute is settled in the courts.

Shooting and fist fights broke out in the area about 120 miles northwest of here yesterday when Ranchers workers tried to stake claims on land claimed by Anaconda.

No one was hurt, but Ranchers said Anaconda guards shot up one of its drilling rigs and bashed the radiator out of another with a shovel.

Both sides rushed men to the area and a tense situation existed today. Judge Ritter's restraining orders were expected to allow things to simmer down.

The U.S. Marshal will perform a peace-keeping function.

There is as yet little commercial use for beryllium, but it has a potential value for use in nuclear reactors and space exploration. It is a

light metal and is highly heat absorbent, although extremely brittle.

The French are constructing a nuclear reactor which would use beryllium to encase the nuclear charge.

Beryllium is a light metal valued for its potential use in nuclear reactors. France is presently building the first reactor to use beryllium as "cladding" material.

Anaconda has numerous claims in the Topaz Mountains about 120 miles northwest of here. Ranchers contends, however, that Anaconda has failed to meet federal laws in proving there is beryllium ore on the land.

An official of Ranchers said that when the firm sent mining personnel on the dispute property to stake claims Friday, "Anaconda sent a mob of men and forcibly ejected them."

An Anaconda spokesman who declined to be quoted by name, said the company was merely protecting its rights.