



Tests were made for methane gas prior to workmen entering an area. This is a posed photo, as the test must have already been made. An exploding flash bulb could have caused an explosion if gas was present.

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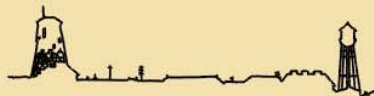
Three miners with lights on their caps working in a shaft.

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Assistance for this project provided by:



Lethbridge Community Foundation



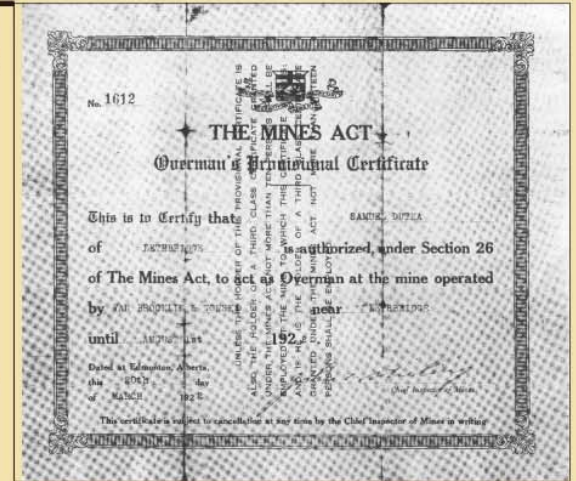
GALT #8 MINE HISTORIC SITE SOCIETY

The Federal #2 Mine

The Federal #2 Mine was located about half way up the Brewery Road Coulee which ran past this point up to First Avenue South. It was also known as The Pioneer Mine, The Lethbridge Pioneer Mine, and The Cascade Mine at various times. Throughout its brief history Federal #2 Mine had many problems:

- The decision to re-work an old abandoned drift mine and part of Galt #1 Mine was based on a false report stating 8.1 ha of coal had been left by the Galt Co.
- A gas called Blackdamp (*carbon dioxide mixed with nitrogen*) was found, so the old workings had to be fenced off.
- The available coal was of inferior quality because the seam was close to the outcrop with only a light cover over it.
- It was closed temporarily around July 1, 1919, because of a general strike in District 18, United Mine Workers of America.
- Several owner-operators had charge of the mine during its short history from 1917 to 1928. As a result, operations were sporadic and the mine sat idle for six of those years.
- The last owner, J.K. Hamilton, had endless trouble with the mine inspectors regarding the class of certificate held by the overman. (*The overman was in charge of the mine while men were in it.*)

The story of this mine, although short lived and of insignificant production, (13,594 tonnes) illustrates some of the problems faced by owners and operators of many mines.



This pocket-worn Overman's Provisional Certificate was the qualification which allowed the holder to take charge of a mine.

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Above are examples of some of the tools required in a mine: A Wolf Safety Lamp, a pick, boring bit, shovel, and copper powder flask for blasting.

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On the right is a canary cage. Canaries, kept in small cages, were very responsive to methane gas. If the canary collapsed, the miners would leave the area. The metal and glass cage with attached air tank was used to revive the little bird.

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