

Lethbridge Coal Company



An inclined railway such as this one was used to bring the coal out of the river valley from the Lethbridge Coal Co. mine.

Photo courtesy of the City of Lethbridge Archives & Records Management



Interior of J.M. Taylor's hardware store showing a selection of coal kitchen ranges and coal heaters used during the coal era.

Photo courtesy of the City of Lethbridge Archives & Records Management

Variouly known as The Taylor Mine, Henderson & Shaw's Mine, and the Lethbridge Coal Mine, it produced a total of 130,858 tonnes of coal. Located on the west side of the river 1.5 miles north of the highway bridge, it opened in December 1916 and was abandoned nine years later.

The seam was 1.4 m thick and of good quality. The pit mouth and tippel were 7.7 m above the river level while the coal seam was 15.2 m below river level. Because the shaft passed through shale rather than gravel, the mine was dry for most of its years of operation. Nevertheless the workings eventually flooded and pumps had to be installed.

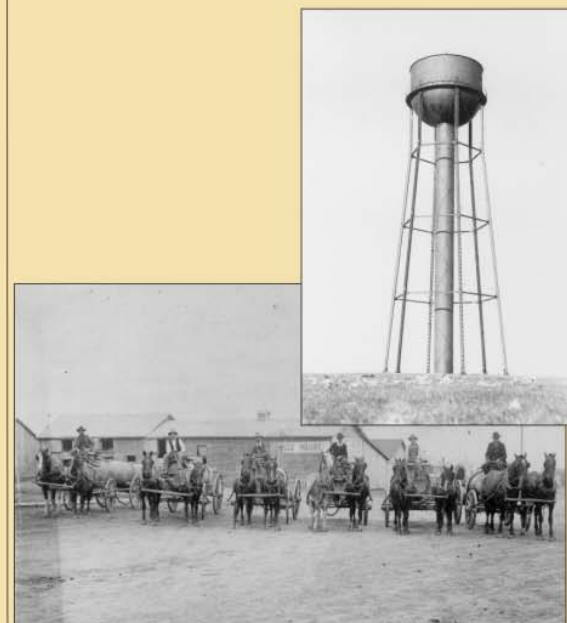
An attempt was made to string a cable across the river to deliver coal on the east side. However that was abandoned in favour of a long inclined railway to the tippel on the top of the coulee on the west side of the river. From there the coal was taken on a small rail line to Lenzie Siding, 2.4 km west, and there loaded on the train. The little railway line crossed a prairie trail (now Highway 3) about at the overpass junction of Highways 3 and 25. The coal was first hauled by a small gasoline locomotive, but after 1923 it was hauled in coal cars pulled by two horses in single file.

The mine was abandoned on September 8, 1925. Some five years later, the former entrance to the mine disappeared under a huge slump probably caused by the first workings of this mine. That slump can be seen directly across the river from this sign.



Typical miners' houses in north Lethbridge.

Photo courtesy of Glenbow Archives, Calgary AB NC-2-454



Prior to the construction of water lines to Stafford village in 1915, water was hauled to miner's homes, at a cost of twenty-five cents a barrel. The top photo is of the standpipe constructed in north Lethbridge. It was only filled to capacity once, as the pressure was so high it burst many water mains in the vicinity.

Photo courtesy of the City of Lethbridge Archives & Records Management

Assistance for this project provided by:



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