

Captions/Proof Sheets for 103 Alberta Coal Branch & related images to accompany a set of black & white negatives shot in 1965; A C Lynn Zelmer, photographer

These images were likely shot on a 1965 follow-up of a 1964 trip through the Alberta Coal Branch mining area. The trip was done as a circuit from Calgary to Edmonton, Edson and back to Calgary via the old Forestry Road. The 1964 trip was in the company of Elmer Holm, a Calgarian with some contacts in the area, but I remember doing the second trip by myself and sleeping in the car when I ran into difficulties on the almost impassable creek crossings south of the Coal Branch.

My camera was a basic Kodak 35mm with a fixed focal length lens, manual focus and exposure following Kodak's basic 'type of light' (sun/sand, bright, cloudy, overcast) guide. Unfortunately, weather conditions were not perfect for picture-taking and the film used was fairly slow with a relatively narrow exposure range.

It is likely that the black and white films were processed at home, but contact sheets, prints, or captions were never prepared. The envelope of negatives was simply labelled 'Edson Mines 65', filed separately from other Coal Branch images, and wasn't properly investigated until 2006. The negative strips were sorted into roll sequences and assigned a tentative locality caption and filename prefix (b, c, m or r) after comparison with the colour slides of the same area.

It should be possible, however, to fairly accurately locate most of the images to a specific community by reference to the colour slides and other images on the web site or the 16mm film shot c1970 and deposited with the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Bickerdike (prefix b)

The trestle/bridge images at the beginning of this roll were shot much closer to Edmonton, with images from a subsequent trip several years later showing the trestle being filled in as CN improved its main line by eliminating the wooden trestles.

The abandoned mine structure was close to Bickerdike on the south side of the CN main line and close to the Coal Branch Road.

Coalspur (prefix c)

There were a couple of small coal mines still operating in the Coal Branch in the mid-1960s but my memory is that the large Coalspur structure had recently closed. The narrow gauge mining equipment and other buildings appear to all be from that mine. The concrete pump house at the beginning of the roll is certainly Coalspur, the residential buildings at the end of the roll may be from Coalspur or another community.

Mercoal (prefix m)

I've labelled this set of images as Mercoal because the Coal Branch Motors photos was located in Mercoal according to the colour slides. The Bryan Hotel was also likely Mercoal, it certainly wasn't Coalspur. The road grader was on the Forestry Road near the Ranger Station, the water standpipe was likely the same one as in the colour slides, somewhere on the Cadomin Branch.

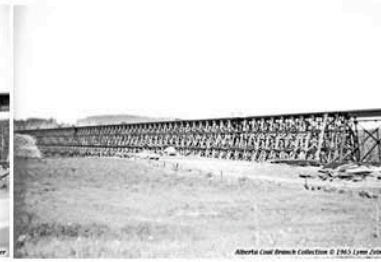
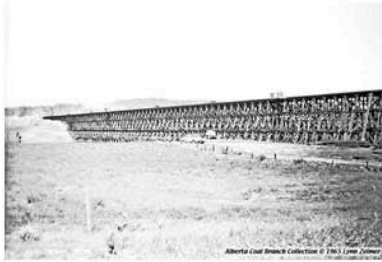
Robb (prefix r)

The tunnel at the beginning of this set is near Robb, subsequent photos are all from Coalspur. The ex-store (images 12 & 13 and visible to the right of and beyond the Coalspur station on the 'Canada' head page) was being used as a residence when the photos were taken, as it was in 1964.

Trestle

A series of three photos on the CN main line, somewhere near Edson, have been converted into a single panorama labeled cnbridgepan. This is a well known bridge, and has appeared in many CN action photos.

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lz_b19.jpg

lz_b20.jpg

lz_b21.jpg



lz_b22.jpg

lz_b23.jpg

lz_b24.jpg



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lz_b31.jpg



lz_b32.jpg



lz_b33.jpg



lz_b34.jpg



lz_b35.jpg



lz_b36.jpg



lz_b37.jpg



lz_c00A1.jpg



lz_c00A2.jpg



lz_c00A3.jpg



lz_c01A.jpg



lz_c02A.jpg

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lz_c03A.jpg



lz_c04A.jpg



lz_c05A.jpg



lz_c06A.jpg



lz_c07A.jpg



lz_c08A.jpg



lz_c09A.jpg



lz_c10A.jpg



lz_c11A.jpg



lz_c12A.jpg



lz_c13A.jpg



lz_c14A.jpg

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lz_c15A.jpg



lz_c16A.jpg



lz_c17A.jpg



lz_c18A.jpg



lz_c19A.jpg



lz_c20A.jpg



lz_c21A.jpg



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lz_cnbridgepan.jpg



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lz_m36A.jpg



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lz_r02.jpg



lz_r03.jpg



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lz_r05.jpg



lz_r06.jpg

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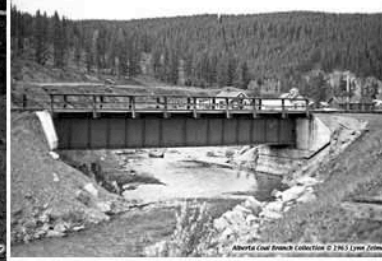
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