

Coal Tyee History Project

Number One Mine

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Number One

The Number One mine was operated by the British and owned by Vancouver Coal mining and Land Company. The operation of the mine was 1883 -1938 and it pulled in eighteen million tons of rock rubble, pure rock, and granite. The coal was pulled out of South Wellington. There was thousand miners that worked in the mine plus one hundred and fifty horses and mules. During 1910 the Number One was located on South Wellington. In 1926 it was situated at the foot of Dickson Street along the shoreline, it also connected to the Protection Mine. The mine was completely under the sea right to Gallus Point. The coal from Protection was hauled to the Number One shaft bottom of the Number One shaft. On May 3, 1887 the worst mining disaster in British Columbia 150 men were killed in a double explosion, the first explosion was caused by badly placed charge of explosive. Second explosion by exploding accumulated gas and coal dust throughout the mine, followed by a fire and after damp (carbon dioxide). Only seven miners survived these bad explosions. The explosion blew the top of the mine, flames and debris flew hundreds of feet into the air. The miners in late 1820s worked as winch kid, some of the jobs for the miners were mechanics and pipe fitters... in 1910 other jobs in the mine was coal diggers, steel hoist, cage operators, and in 1912 operation of the coupling cars. Lamping was different such as a pit lamps, oil lamps and safety lamps operated in the mine. In 1903 mine got sold to the Western Fuel Company of San Francisco. In 1927 the mine was bought by Canadian collieries (Dunsmuir Unlimited). The closing of the Number one mine was 1938.

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Bill Rice-Wyse interviewed by Lynne Bowen.