

Castle Gate No. 3

Don Strack

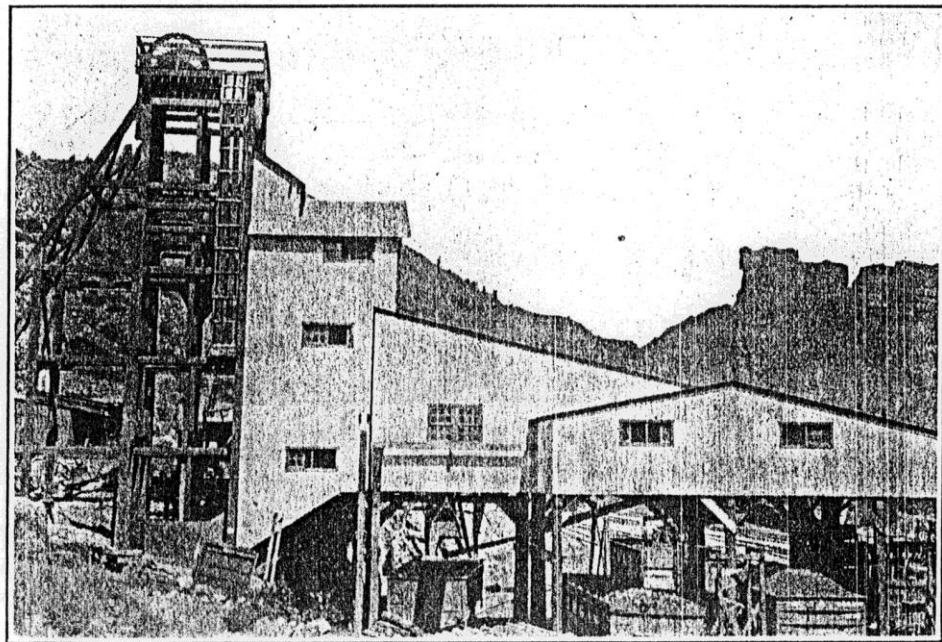
Posted to Facebook, Rails Through The Wasatch, January 14, 2019

A very rare photo. I have always wondered where the Castle Gate No. 3 mine was. You can see the Castle Gate rock in the background, and I have tried to match it with a Google view. I came across this photocopy among the stuff I am cleaning out. I made the photocopy back in 1994, and it comes from the November 20, 1924 issue of Coal Age magazine. I sure miss being able to look through paper copies of Coal Age at the U of U library. They are all gone now <sigh>.

Castle Gate No. 3 was opened in 1922 and was located about 3/4 mile north and west of the new Willow Creek coal preparation plant built in 1995. Castle Gate No. 3 was the first vertical shaft coal mine in Utah. It was closed in 1937 due to flooding from the Price River. (As a side note, the only other vertical shaft coal mine in Utah was the mine of the Sevier Valley Coal company in Salina canyon.)

Utah's Only Shaft Mine

This is the tippie at Castle Gate No. 3 of the Utah Fuel Co., three quarters of a mile above the town of Castle Gate. The famous "gate" of rock can be seen towering in the background. This mine, which is just getting into production, taps a seam 100 ft. below the valley floor. The tippie has a capacity of 1,500 tons a day. It is equipped with shaker screens and loading booms and is built with a wooden frame sheathed in corrugated iron. The mine has an electric hoist.



Coal Age Vol 26 #21 p. 721 Nov 20, 1924



Doug Jolley...

Thanks, Don! I have a Walthers coal mine spread out on the workbench at this moment. Surprisingly similar in some respects. Was pondering a way to make it look different than everyone else's. The addition of the headframe is the answer!

Don Strack...

The little that I have read about the closing of the very unique No. 3 mine was that the mine had flooded in 1937 with water from the Price River. Well, it turns out that there was a cloudburst on Saturday July 10, 1937, at 1:30 p.m., that undermined the foundation of the structure, and the ventilating fan "plunged" 60 feet down the shaft. You don't get such things with Utah's predominant horizontal coal mines. The same cloudburst an hour later caused three landslides in lower Spanish Fork canyon that closed a four-mile stretch of U. S. 50 (and the D&RGW mainline) for three days, stranding over 300 cars. This all comes from reading online newspapers, which can be amazingly tedious and boring, but sometimes a gem pops up, such as this.

Don Strack...

Here is a photo from one of the newspaper articles. Salt Lake Telegram, July 12, 1937.



WHERE DRIVERS FOUND THEIR WAY BLOCKED BY LANDSLIDES
Several abreast, these cars were marooned for hours in Spanish Fork canyon

Don Strack

...and turned to look down-canyon.

Torrential Rain Sends Slide Across Rocks



SCENE OF DAMAGING AVALANCHE CAUSED BY CANYON CLOUDBURSTS
Tons of mud, rock, debris endangered lives, blocked road