

Quinn ACT/002/033

Facility loads over 3.25 million tons of coal annually

Unit train loadout facilities are common businesses as they are located throughout Carbon County as a necessary component in getting this area's coal off the ground and into rail cars for transportation.

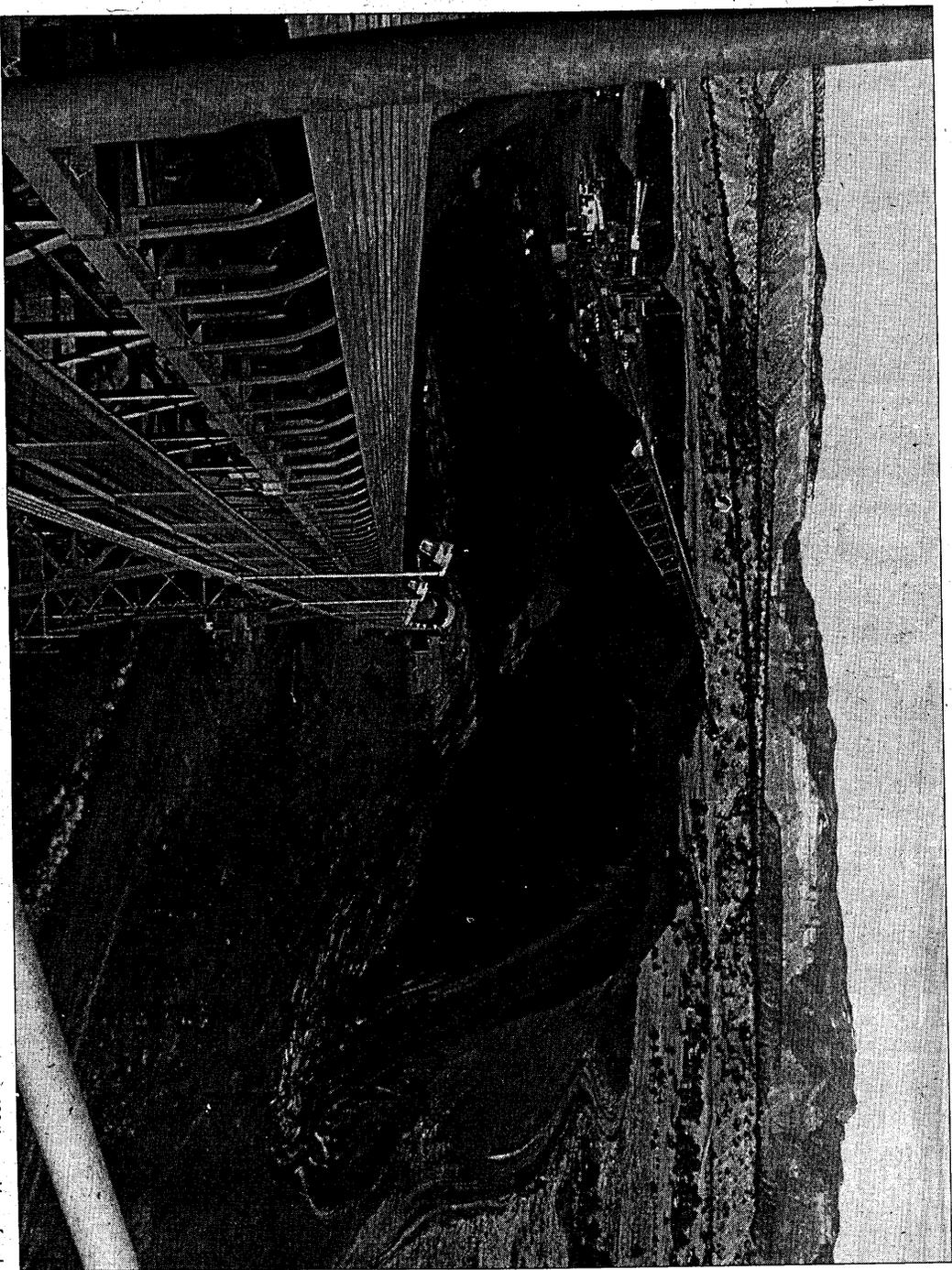
Andelax completed the construction of their Wildcat loadout facilities in April, 1985 and since then have loaded over 27 million tons of coal.

Ironically, the first train to be loaded did present some problems. Loadout facility foreman Scott Dimick explained that when loading the third or fourth car, the doors in the bottom of the train car did not close, and 208,000 pounds of coal poured out onto the ground.

One of the rules the employees are governed by is "he who spilleth - shovelleth!" and so learned about cleaning up after a spill. There are presently four plant operators who divide their time between moving coal with big caterpillars over the belt intakes, making sure the belts and loadout equipment functions properly.

Approximately 800,000 tons of coal a year were shipped the first few years from the Andelax facility. Presently they load 3.25 million tons annually. This accounts for a unit train a day for most days and sometimes up to three trains in a day leaving the facility. Utah Railway provides the locomotives to transport the coal.

Each train car is loaded with 209,000 pounds of coal. This is accomplished in only 75 seconds with the train



Over 27 million tons of coal have been loaded onto rail cars since 1985 at the Andelax Wildcat loadout facility located west on Consumers road. Pictured is approximately 400 thousand tons of coal and the belt line bringing the coal up to the loadout.



They transport the coal.

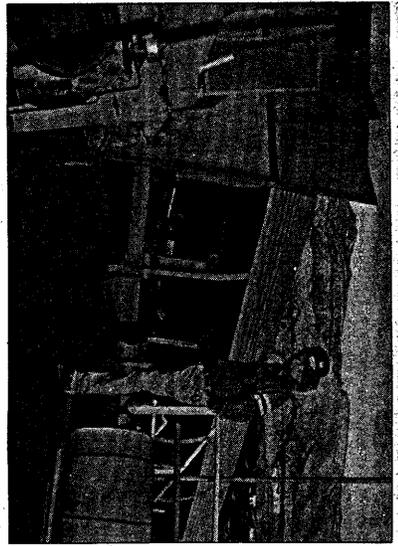
Each train car is loaded with 209,000 pounds of coal. This is accomplished in only 75 seconds with the train moving at about a half a mile an hour. The operator is in constant communication with the engineer who controls the speed of the train.

The operator has to coordinate the coal coming in with the coal dropping into the car and do it so that they don't run out of coal.

The train is made up of 91 to 100 aluminum constructed cars that weigh only 52,700 pounds each. Mark Howes of the Andalex facility commented that at first experts didn't think the aluminum cars would hold up, but "these cars have now been in service 14 years and they have done a good job."

Coal is presently being hauled to the facility from Andalex, Genwall and Skyline mines. Most coal is crushed at the mine sites to a size not to exceed two inches. Windcat loadout is equipped with a crusher to provide larger sizes of lump and stoker coal. The coal is stored covering a large area above ground at the facility. From there it is moved by belt to the top of the loadout building where it is dumped into a 300 ton bin.

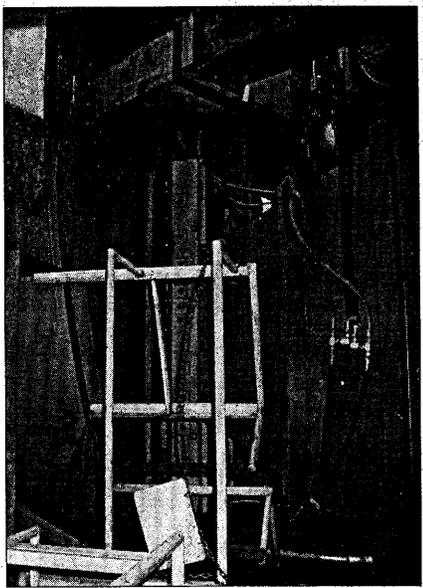
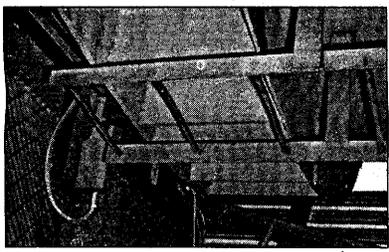
Computers run four different sets of doors connecting the 300 ton bin to a smaller 100 ton container that sits on four weight measuring devices. Coal is dumped in from the top until there is approximately 209,000 pounds. The top doors are closed as the bottom doors are opened and the coal is emptied into the train car. When empty, it takes only 15 seconds for the lower bin to be refilled with another 209,000 pounds of coal. A constant sampling of the coal being loaded is separated out and collected in a fifty pound bag for later testing. Television monitors show the operators pictures of the belt lines as well as the train cars as they are being loaded.



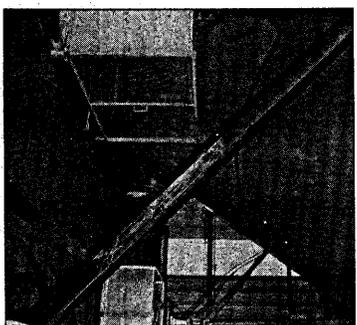
Once the coal reaches the top it is dumped into a 300 ton bin. Pictured is Scott Dimnick.



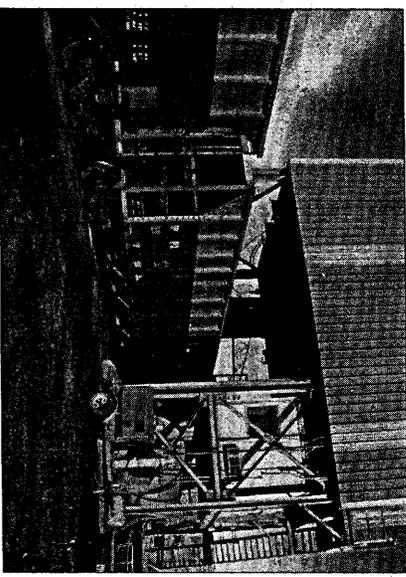
Mark Howes is seated at the control panel that runs the loadout facility operations. Coal is pictured dumping into the train car through the window.



This is one of the four openings from the 300 ton bin that fills the 100 ton bin with over 200,000 pounds of coal in less than 15 seconds.



This is the funnel area of the 100 ton bin as coal is dropped from here to the coal car.



The train moves slowly along as coal is emptied into the coal cars every 75 seconds.