



A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

Release

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Set-up and camera
Jack Long

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Cable code: COALMINE
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COAL MINE IN THE SKY!!

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STRIP MINING 7,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL IN GRANDEUR OF CANADIAN
ROCKIES

.....
COAL TRUCKED THROUGH SOME OF MOST BEAUTIFUL SCENERY IN CANADA.
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Blairmore, Alta., August 00, 1954.

In the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Southern Alberta there is a coal mine in the sky. One of several strip mining operations in this area, the coal is being mined right on top of Grassy Mountain by the West Canadian Colleries Limited.

The coal seam is near the surface but is over 7,000 feet above sea level. The mining operation is relatively simple. The coal is blasted free from the coal face and shovels load it onto huge trucks carrying from 10 to 15 tons each. The coal is soft and is used for stoker, furnace and kilns. Much of it is manufactured into briquettes, used by the Canadian railroads.

The trucks carry the coal over six miles of switchback roads from the top of the mountain to the processing plant. The heavy laden trucks keep to the inside of the mountain road while the unloaded trucks take the outside.

Against a majestic background the drivers carefully manoeuvre the hairpin turns. Often clouds obscure the top of Grassy Mountain and the trucks drive out of the clouds to reach the mountain's base.

With all the developments of oil and gas and the talk of atomic energy just around the corner, Canadian economy still relies to a very large degree on energy derived from coal. Without a doubt the Blairmore Mine is situated in one of the most beautiful locations in Canada.

GB ?