

**Sixteen tons and wadda ya get?**

Most people don't realize we had a local coal mine in the early '20s. The excitement of gold, silver, and even copper mines far outweighed the discovery of an excellent grade of coal near Jordan.

The Jordan Valley Coal Co. incorporated on Aug, 25, 1919, under the original owners C.J. Chamberlin and J. Wichser of Granite Falls, and B.E. Padgett of Everett. The actual shafts were located along the south shore of the Stillaguamish River, just downstream from the famous "Jordan Swinging Bridge".

Digging and development involved four to six full-time men, and by 1921 it was announced that a contract had been arranged with the Granite Falls school system to supply 60 tons of high-quality coal.

Newspaper accounts over the next few years don't confirm that delivery ever having been made, but there were continual reports of new machinery installed and new deposits discovered (one claimed to be over 4 feet thick).

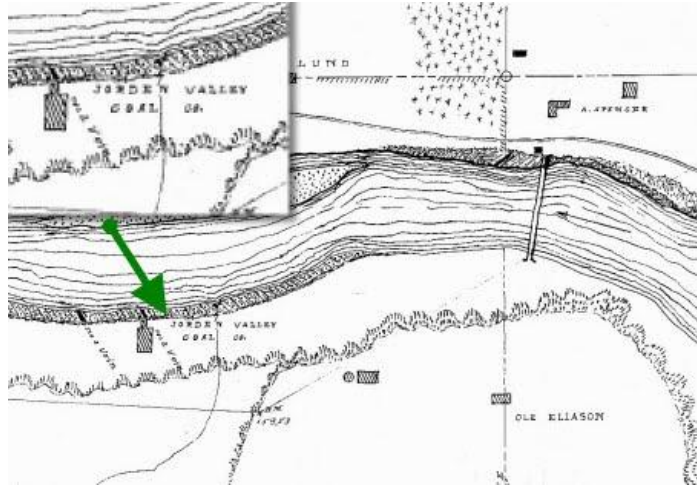
One of the early challenges came in getting the coal from the mine to Jordan Road. Early accounts indicated the purchase of about a thousand of feet of heavy cable, drums, and buckets, meant for an aerial line across the river.

Later reports described improvements being made to the swinging bridge, strengthening it to handle ten-ton loads, widening it to eight feet, and reinforcing the bridge anchors at both ends. That would allow trucks to drive straight to the mine.

The grand opening picnic held in 1923 drew two hundred people on a rainy day to view the steam machinery and mine, but the public support wasn't enough to make the coal mine a long-term success.

One 1924 article claimed production to be at ten tons per day, but not much later, one of the neighbors (once an avid mine supporter) sued the coal company and won, claiming all the coal on his property as his own and preventing the coal company from accessing it.

In subsequent years, area residents visited the mine occasionally to pick up coal for home use and to simply examine the machinery. Today, nothing remains as evidence of the once-promising endeavor.



The Jordan Valley Coal Company was West of the Jordan swinging bridge, which had to be improved to allow coal trucks over it. The company was incorporated in 1919, but it wasn't until 1921 that they signed their first contract, with the Granite Falls School District for 60 tons of coal. By the end of the 20's a civil suit by an adjoining landowner blocked the company's access to the mine, since the court ruled the land belonged to the neighbor, not the mine owners.

No. 45590

**Articles of Incorporation**  
OF THE  
Jordan Valley Coal Co.,

Place of business Granite Falls,  
Time of existence 50 years years.  
Capital Stock, \$ 100,000.00  
State of Washington, ss.  
Filed for record in the office of the Secretary  
of State August 28th, 19,  
at 4.05 o'clock P. M.  
Recorded in Book 170 Page 308  
DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS  
*[Signature]*  
Secretary of State.  
(FILE No. 23533 )  
Filed at request of  
B. E. Padgett  
323 Stokes Bldg.,  
Address Everett, Wash.  
Filing and recording fee, \$ 25.00  
License to June 30, 1920, \$ 15.00  
(RECEPTION No. 204758 )  
Certificate mailed OCT 28 1919  
to above address.  
INDEXED. Compared.  
88 Form 47-4-21-17-5009.

