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*Photographs & text by: Larry V. Lodato
Secretary/treasurer Coal Heritage Foundation*

Bituminous Coal Heritage Foundation Museum

*Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage of the
Southern WV Coalfields for the Education and
Enjoyment of Future Generations*

**MUSEUM OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY
12:00 NOON UNTIL 4 P.M.**

347 Main Street
Madison, WV 25130

FOR SPECIAL TOURS:

Phone: 304-369-5180 or 304-369-9118

Fax: 304-369-9130

boonedevcorp@yahoo.com
www.wvcoalmuseum.org

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FREE ADMISSION TO MUSEUM

THANKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS!

The Boone County Commission provides Operating funds for the Coal Heritage Museum and Arts & Heritage Center. Other support comes from our loyal corporate and individual members.

Visit the Coal Heritage Museum



**See the Company Store &
Coal Mine in the New Exhibit**

***"A Miners Life
The Way It Was"***

347 Main Street
Downtown Madison,
West Virginia

**Preserving The
Past For Future
Generations**





HANDS ON TOOLS, including a breast plate auger, shovel and pick, allow museum visitors, like this youngster, to get a realistic sense of what it was to mine coal in the 1940's and 1950's. These tools are found in the interactive hands on display in the simulated coal mine in the museum.



ANTIQUATE ITEMS from the early days of mining can be found throughout the Museum.



THE FIRST EXHIBIT in the Coal Heritage Museum was this one-ton coal car, a replica of those used in the early days of coal mining when oxen, mules and horses hauled coal out of the mines.

Madison Museum: An Example For Other Museums To Follow

Starting with a storefront and a few artifacts, the Coal Heritage Museum in downtown Madison has developed into a permanent facility which displays professionally designed exhibits, and also hosts traveling exhibits.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, the Coal Heritage Museum was featured

in the Spring, 2007 edition of the West Virginia Association of Museums Newsletter, and was recognized as "an example for other museums to follow"



History Of The Coal Museum

In June of 1999, the Bituminous Coal Heritage Foundation Coal Museum became a reality in Madison, West Virginia.

The Foundation, was created by the Boone County Development Authority and chartered by the State of West Virginia in 1994, purchased a building in downtown Madison to house the Museum and Visitor's Center. The tremendous growth of the West Virginia Coal Festival, and the many historical attractions in and around the county seat of Madison, prompted the Coal Foundation and the Boone County Development Authority officers to move forward on developing a museum to house memorabilia of the coal industry which was born in Boone County in 1742.

The building purchased for the museum was built in 1924, and once housed the Madison Post Office.

The family of the late Tommy and Mary Francis Ellis, a prominent community-minded couple, graciously agreed to donate a building adjacent to the one being purchased for the museum by the Foundation. The building donated to the Foundation is located at 347 Main Street and the building purchased by the Foundation has been turned into the Boone Arts and Heritage Center.

The downtown coal museum showcases the culture and history of coal and its people, and brings thousands of visitors to Boone County annually. Brochures are available in the museum on other tourist attractions and points of interest in the area.

Boone County is the logical choice to establish the Museum and Visitor's Center. ***Boone County is where coal was first discovered in 1742, and has been the economic lifeblood of the county for a century.***

Visit the museum online at:

www.wvcoalmuseum.org



Coal Foundation Receives NCHA Interpretative Award

The National Coal Heritage Area has bestowed the prestigious Coal Heritage Interpretation Award upon the Bituminous Coal Heritage Foundation's Museum in downtown Madison.

The interpretative display at the Coal Museum features a company store, miner's home, a locker room where miners changed for their next shift in the mines, and a simulated coal mine where visitors can get a hands-on feel for some of the duties performed by miners in the early days.

Funding for the project, which resulted in the award, came from the Boone County Commission, Boone County Development Office, membership donations and the NCHA.

THE BOONE COUNTY COMPANY STORE exhibit is full of mining tools, lunch pails, food items, and other goods, an old typewriter, and weighing scales, just like the old company stores had in the 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's.



L.E.D. MESSAGE SIGN at the Museum informs visitors of upcoming events at both the Coal Museum and the Boone Arts & Heritage Center, located adjacent to the Museum.



Old mining hats, carbide lamps and script are among the hundreds of items on display at the museum.

Here's An Inventory Of Some Of The Rare & Unique Items At The Coal Heritage Museum

- 1863 Stock Certificate for five shares of Westmoreland Coal Company stock.
- Battle of Blair Mountain Artifacts & Memorabilia.
- Civil War Memorabilia.
- Original photographs of 1943 "Look" Magazine article Featuring a Boone County Family Who Lived in a Coal Camp
- Original Photos of 1926 & 1927 mine safety rescue contests in Madison, WV.
- 1910 "crank style" cash register.
- 1918 Boone County Coal Corporation landbook.