TAR CREEK:

HISTORY AND LEGACY OF MINING IN THE TRI-STATE MINING DISTRICT

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Before the Beginning of Mining

• Native American Land Before Oklahoma Statehood – 1907
• Complicated Mineral Right Issues - BIA
CHAT PILES (TAILINGS)
Beginning to the End

- 1848 – Outcrops of Lead Smelted for Bullets
- 1870’s - Smelters built in Kansas
- 1914 – Picher Mining Field Established
- 1917 – America enters WW I
- 1929 – Stock Market Crash
- 1935 – 1937 Labor Disputes
- 1941 – WW II
- 1957 – E-P Shuts Down
- 1970’s Mining Stops
- 1979 – Meyer Ranch Discharges
Boom Town 1910-1930
Into the Mines

- Ore brought to the surface in buckets
Into the Mines

- Back Breaking Work
Room and Pillar Mining

- Mine rooms varied from 15’ to 300’ tall
- ~300 miles of tunnels
- OKC to Picher ~200 miles
- Mutt Mantle – Ground Boss
Centralized Milling – 1930’s
Life Beyond Mining
Damage Done
Questions??