

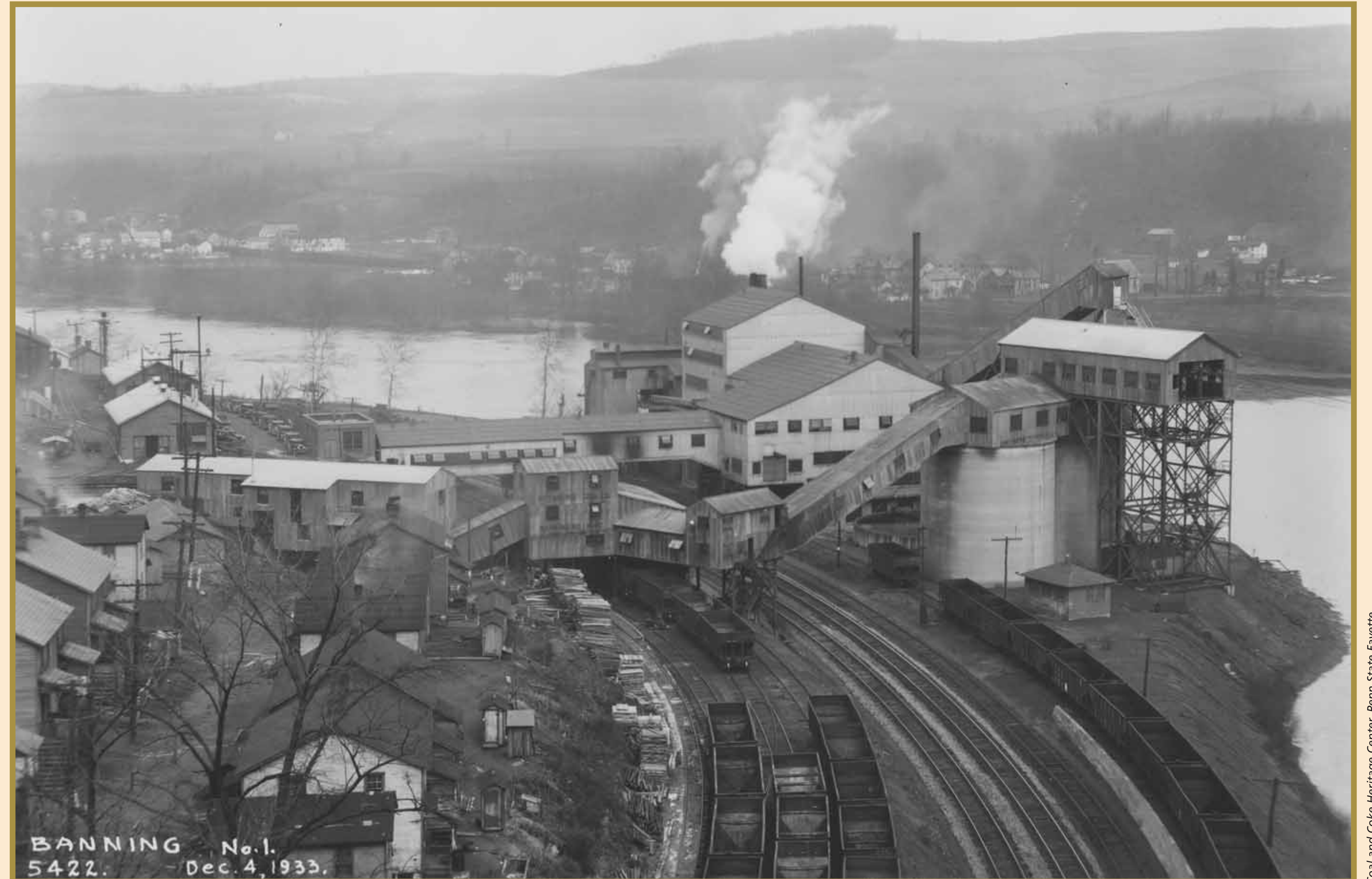
BANNING No. 1

Processing coal for the steel mills

You are standing in the middle of what was a large coal processing operation of the Pittsburgh Coal Company. Coal mined nearby rattled down now defunct tracks of Banning No. 1 Coal Mine to be washed and sorted by hand. In 1890 the mine employed 78 men and shipped 58,307 tons of coal.

In 1907 disaster struck. A gas and coal dust explosion killed 239 miners at the nearby Darr Mine, one of the worst coal mining tragedies in the U.S. By 1910 the Pittsburgh Coal Company had resumed operations at Darr Mine, entering from Banning No. 1 and No. 3.

In 1951 Banning No.1 employed 500 men and produced 500,000 tons of coal. Operations finally ceased in 1956.



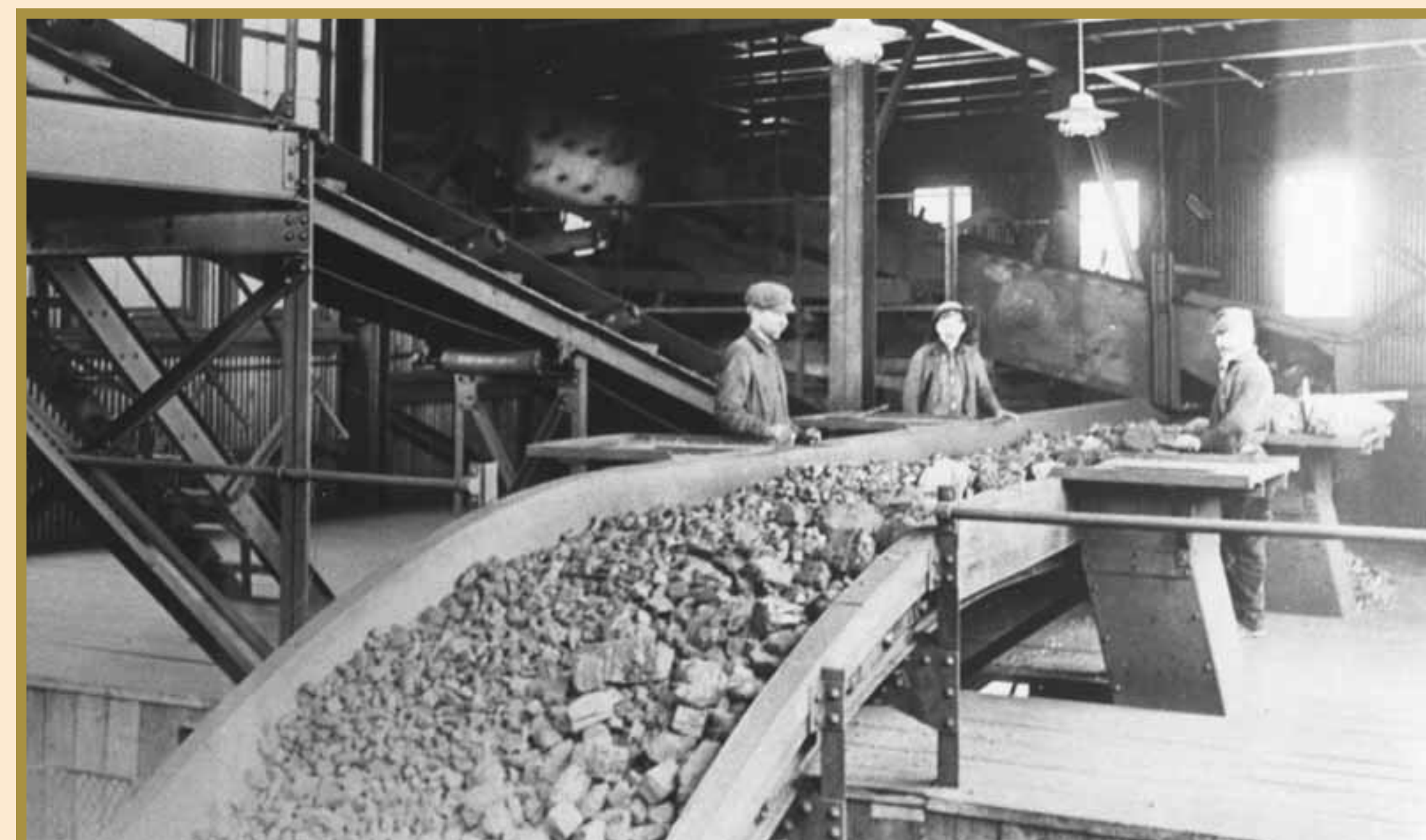
The concrete cylinders you see today are all that remain of a major coal processing facility operated by the Pittsburgh Coal Company. It processed up to 500,000 tons of coal per year until it closed in 1956.

Coal and Coke Heritage Center, Penn State Fayette



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Washing and sorting coal by hand.

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Art by Brian McCall

The Banning trestle flies overhead, 1582 feet long and 160 feet high. It was begun as part of financier Jay Gould's grand scheme to build the first transcontinental railway. Gould went broke before it was completed. The trestle became part of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway and is still in use in 2008.