

NATIONAL COAL CO., INC.

C. L. RUTHERFORD, PRESIDENT

OIL TREATED
DUSTLESS COAL



MINE PHONE 112
RES. PHONE 1270-J

"Less Ash—More Heat"

OSKALOOSA, IOWA

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Youtube: Douglas Harding Iowa Central Railroad

The National Coal Company's Coal Prep plant, located at Fosterdale Iowa, was constructed in 1938. Owner CL Rutherford began making plans 1936 soon after the MSTL acquired the CBQ's track through Fosterdale.

MSTL TT #2 listing for the Tracy branch in Oct 29, 1939 shows Fosterdale could hold 110 cars. Earlier TT shows that Fosterdale had a capacity of 8 cars. Capacity for 102 cars was added when the coal washer was built in 1938. This increased to 128 cars between July 1945 & Jan 1946. It became the Fosterdale Branch and was still listed in TT #12, effective July 29, 1956. The Fosterdale Branch is gone TT #13 June 23, 1957. One scheduled train during the entire existence of the branchline.

Jack Fry, loco engineer on the Louie, operated a doodlebug used in MOW service, to pull flats and gons to rip up the track in '56. This indicates the Coal Prep plant was out of business by '56. Batteries on the GE were shot, so he told others NOT to shut the diesel off. Someone forgot and shut it off. Then the crew had to call a portable welder to come out and give them a jump!

A 1941 divorce proceedings between two Rutherfords, who hold extensive coal holdings in Mahaska County, reads in part: *The defendant is a man of considerable means. He is an operator of several valuable coal-mining properties in and about Mahaska county, Iowa. One of these properties is apparently owned by defendant personally and one or more other like properties are owned by a corporation of which he is apparently the only stockholder. It was shown at the hearing on the application for attorney fees, suit money and temporary alimony that the defendant has accumulated all his holdings during the last nine years and that he had an income during the past year of approximately \$20,000. It should be stated that defendant is shown to have an indebtedness growing out of his mining operations of \$9,000. It was also shown that the defendant, or the companies in which he is interested, is contingently liable to a railroad company to provide freight revenue of \$17,500 yearly for a period of three years and that there is a contingent liability in the total amount of \$52,500. The defendant's property has been estimated to be worth approximately \$200,000.*

The bridge over the Des Moines River was washed out in a flood in 1949, severing the track to Tracey and thus Des Moines.

Iowa DOT report: Tracy to Fosterdale 5.27 miles abandoned 9-14-49, effective 10-14-1949
Oskaloosa to Fosterdale 1.5 miles abandoned 1-29-1957, effective 2-29-1957



