

Nicknames

Read the article “Nicknames in the Mines” and look at the two pages scanned from old company ledgers. The names listed in the ledgers are sometimes followed by the miners nickname in brackets.

1. Why were there so many nicknames in many coal mining communities? Do you agree that they were necessary? Why or why not?
2. a) What is the most interesting nickname that you found? Why?
b) What was the funniest nickname? Why?
c) Were there any that you didn't understand? Explain.
3. For what reasons would a person get a nickname in those days?
4. What nickname would your family receive if you lived back in those days? Explain why.
5. Go back many years and imagine that you are accompanying your father downtown in Glace Bay on a Saturday afternoon. Write a story of the people you met, and what their nicknames were, as if you were telling it to your mother when you returned.