

## COALHURST, A STORY TOLD

I've had my trials and tribulations  
In the hundred years I've been a town  
Those early years a lot of growth  
Then they tried to burn me down

It was the mines that made me  
Without that shaft I wouldn't be here  
600 men, worked three shifts  
In my heyday year

I had lots of different stores  
Shoe repair, a blacksmith shop  
Dry goods, butchers, a hospital  
The hotel, a greyhound stop

And that was just to name a few  
I was a thriving place  
And the price of coal was rising  
And it set the pace

Working men with families  
Along with all they're dreams  
I was alive with activity  
Football, hockey, baseball teams

And then came the explosion  
December 9...in thirty five  
All bodies were recovered  
16 men were not alive

The mine closed down  
Coal sales were slow....  
There was work elsewhere  
Families had to go

I had some rough and rocky times  
But still I battled on  
A tiny little prairie town  
With most my people gone

But here I am, one hundred years  
Once again I'm on the rise  
For all those people who just don't quit  
Have prevented my demise



*Written by Noel Burles*

This story of Coalhurst was presented by Noel Burles, a resident of Coalhurst and a well respected Cowboy Poet, on Friday, August 9, 2013 during the Dedication of the Centennial Monument at Imperial Meadows Park in Coalhurst, Alberta.

Thank you Noel for giving Coalhurst a special memory that will be acknowledged and appreciated and passed down for generations to come.