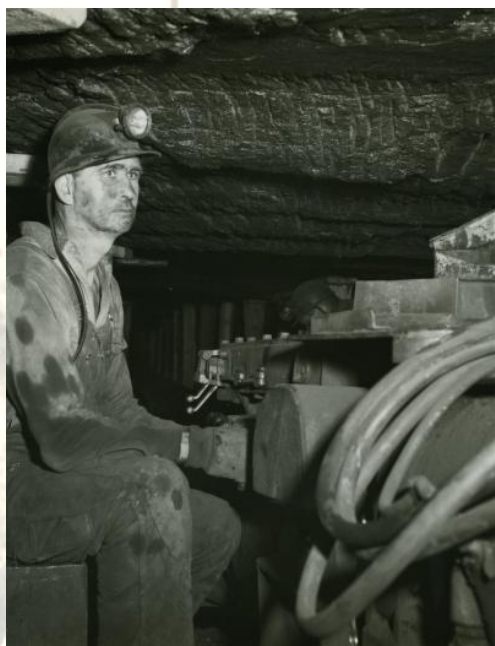
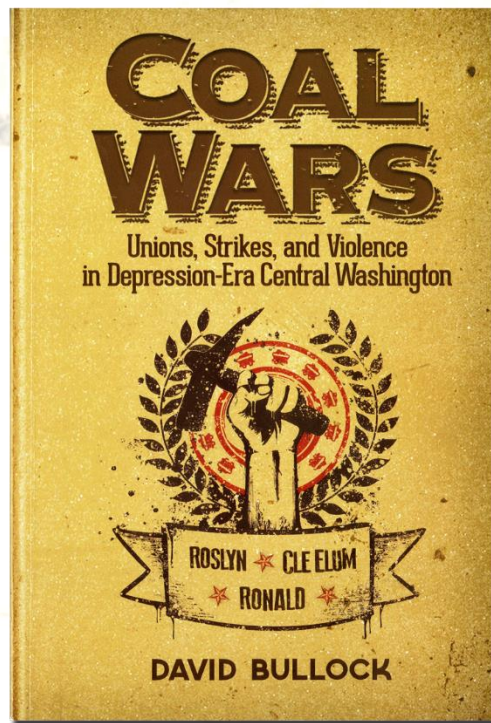


Books from the Archives, Episode Four

Contributed by Terry Badger, Deputy State Archivist

There are an unlimited amount of interesting stories to be found in the Archives. On any given day, the Archives has patrons looking for their family history, what the Legislature meant by a certain word, or phrase, the cause of pollutants found in the ground or water, the chain of title to properties throughout the state, and yes, even good ol' fashioned history.

One such visitor, David Bullock, came in search of documents that could help him tell part of the story of coal miners in the Roslyn area. His finished product, *Coal Wars: Unions, Strikes, and Violence in Depression-Era Central Washington* was recently published by the Washington State University Press. Bullock tells the tale of what happened after some of the miners in the area grew disillusioned with their national union, the United Mine Workers of America, and created a new organization, the Western Miners Union of America. According to Bullock the six-month saga tore communities apart and turned friends into enemies.



Coal miner, 1945-1955, Photographer Ted Bronstein, General Subjects Photograph Collection, 1845-2005, [Washington State Archives](https://digitalarchives.wa.gov/), Digital Archives.

During his research, Bullock relied upon several documents in the Archives, including correspondence with Governor Clarence Martin, Kittitas County Superior Court Case Files, and death records from the Digital Archives. In addition to research at the Archives, Bullock also used collections from our associates at the Washington Rural Heritage program of the Washington State Library.

If you are interested in learning more about this event, please look for David Bullock's book, or come to the Archives to explore and find many countless other interesting stories.