

Coal City Superstitions

Bare Cottonwood Trees

If the cows are laying down in the pasture, it will rain soon.

If you stomp on a rat, and it doesn't die, your mill is in trouble.

To avoid the curse of a black cat about to cross your path, curse profanely until you pass it.

Hedge-apples will keep rodents away.

If you hear an owl, you have a guardian protecting you.

Leftover Paper Plates

Step on a crack, break your mother's back.

Looking at pornography will make you go blind.

Falling into a mine shaft is a bad omen.

The left thumb will turn black in sympathy for a smashed right one, and vice-versa.

Drinking pop after dinner will cause nightmares.

Train Flattened Keys

An upside-down penny is unlucky.

An open door says friends are nearby.

You will trip over old shoes.

A lucky penny, once washed, will no longer be lucky.

You are in love if your cigarette will only half-light.

Craft Fair Booths

The darkroom beneath the stairs will protect you from tornados.

Garage Sale Tee-Shirts

If you see an apparition in your rear-view mirror, put a tea leaf on your back seat to keep him away.

A neighbor's haunted attic should always be unfinished on the west side.

A girl thrown from her bed by a ghost will grow freckles over her bruises.

A full moon casts long shadows.

A broken bone, caused by falling into a mine shaft, will be haunted.

Cornfield Arrowheads

Coal brings bad luck. A cows tooth brings good luck.

Buried trauma will always be dug up.

Finding a Trilobite fossil is a sign of wisdom.