

## **MTM/VF EIS**

### **Community Narrative: Scarlet, West Virginia**

**Interviewer:** Tell us about how you came to live here. Let me back up. Let me put it this way, how did you come to live in Scarlet?

**Resident I:** My family lived there. I was raised there. I wasn't born there. I was born in Harts Fork but I was brought back home there. How it all come about is my Mom and Dad, well my grandmother and then it's actually left to my father and then I bought a piece of property off him. He sold the rest of it. So, that's how I came to live here. It was home and I didn't want to leave West Virginia. All my other families out and about in cities, like we say, and ...

**Resident II:** I married into Scarlet Holler.

**Resident I:** He was married into the fortune.

**Interviewer II:** How did you folks meet? You were in the Navy at the time that you met her? Or before that?

**Resident II:** No, we met in school.

**Resident I:** Childhood sweethearts.

**Interviewer II:** You are both from the area then? Oh great.

**Resident I:** He is originally from Duncan Fork.

**Resident II:** Born and raised up there. I don't know, somebody moved to the mouth of Scarlet.

**Resident I:** I went to school with his brother. We were in the same class all through school, all through 12 years. Our families, you know they were church goers and my Dad was a preacher and his Dad was a Deacon at the church, that type of thing. Till death do we part, they say. I said he wasn't shaking me and I didn't want to shake him.

**Resident II:** We have been married what 32 years or so?

**Resident I:** It doesn't seem like that.

**Resident II:** She don't tell me what to do and I don't tell her what to do. That's basically why we get along.

**Resident I:** You know, disagreements come and go, but it just working through'em...that's the whole concept.

**Interviewer II:** Just give and take.

**Resident II:** People who are too strict on each other don't make it. Do they? I don't think any way.

**Interviewer:** How did your family come to settle there, do you know?

**Resident II:** That started many moons ago.

**Resident I:** Right, generations and generations.

**Resident II:** That land was originally plotted off in maybe four plots of farms, and then my Dad and Mom, right at the mouth of Scarlet, was their home place. All of that area in there. And then the mines come in and they moved them out and this and that. Well, her family was just about all of the one fork . . . but I know, originally there was three or four, and they just kept giving it out to the kids and . . .

**Resident I:** The biggest part of the holler was "Specific Name". And they connected that way.

**Interviewer:** I saw the family cemetery up on the hill.

**Resident II:** I liked it better then - where we lived. I did.

**Interviewer:** What did you like most about it would you say?

**Resident II:** The community and neighbors.

**Resident I:** We had real tight neighbors.

**Resident II:** Yea and there was plenty of them, you know.

**Resident I:** We watched out for each other. We was at the mouth of the holler. It was just, I don't know, family. At one point in time it was family. Everybody was family. And then, of course, you start letting in, and people kept selling out, and of course, we all bonded, even the people that came in that wasn't family, we all bonded real good.

**Interviewer:** A real sense of community that you had. Exactly.

**Resident II:** Yea, lots of big families.

**Resident I:** Yea, I can't say that I don't miss it, I do miss it cause it was home and I was raised there. But when I get trying times here, I find myself, especially when my kids are home, and they could push your last nerve . . . you know, instead of exploding, like I used to do years ago, I would get in my vehicle and I would drive up 27. By the time I got to the head of both forks, it's like, o.k., I feel better. It's gone. Took me about 30 minutes and I am a lot cooler and I can handle the situation calmly.

**Interviewer:** That leads me to my other question which is part of what Troy and I are looking at is how the community has changed or didn't change before the mining was there and then while the mining was there and then after it left in some cases. So, you know that sense of community that you talk about, can you tell me a little bit about how that changed or stayed the same . . . either way? After the mining moved in . . .

**Resident I:** While we were still living there? Is that what you are saying?

**Resident II:** Well, we were used to the mining cause it went on after we had been there. Then, all the sudden it started to blast and shake and your house is cracking and all that and that is when everybody . . .

**Resident I:** We were more used to the underground when it was down at the mouth of that hollow that you see underground mining. So, we were always used to the commotion of mining and the dirt and all that stuff that went with the underground mining, and the trains. It's like I said, just part of the heritage.

**Resident II:** You would go out in the morning and all your swings and stuff on the porch would be covered with black dust. Which, I haven't seen that in years.

**Resident I:** With the strip job, it was different.

**Resident II:** Yeah, it was a brown dirt.

**Interviewer II:** Well, the dirt, the actual dirt, the soil, to get to the seams themselves . . .

**Resident II:** You could sit there on the porch and watch the rocks raise up and settle down. It was something.

**Resident I:** The underground mining never affected us, or maybe I just didn't realize it. Maybe I was just too young to realize it. But, ah . . . It just tore the house apart, that's all. We were one of the fortunate ones living at the mouth of the hollow. It was worse the closer you got to where they were working.

**Resident II:** They had a wonderful company. They would come right out . . .

**Interviewer II:** So the company themselves, actually seemed concerned.

**Resident II:** They were great. They were real concerned.

**Interviewer II:** About what their actions, in terms of their operations and how it was actually affecting the community. They were actually coming to you without you going to them?

**Resident II:** Right. We never had to, no.

**Resident I:** I don't know if somebody had to start . . . You know, I'm sure they did.

**Resident II:** This one over here now, see I don't know . . . adjoining this company, right across the hill there, now they're shaking the snot of you. This is the one that's doing all the sinking the wells. . . this one right here, yes shakes. The windows will rattle, and they're not a bit concerned.

**Interviewer II:** And they let you know when they are going to blast?

**Resident II:** They are supposed to. We have gotten the letters, but we never heard a signal.

**Resident I:** There is supposed. Supposed to be a siren and then supposed to be so many seconds after that and then when they are finished you are supposed . . .

**Resident II:** You just hear, all you feel is a shake.

**Interviewer II:** A shake, so they've done it without any warning?

**Resident II:** Yeah, they are supposed to do pre-blast surveys and we signed for them and they never did come check it.

**Interviewer II:** Oh, so they actually . . . That's very interesting.

**Resident II:** They've never done it.

**Interviewer II:** Now, the other company that you talked about . . .

**Resident II:** Now, they were outstanding.

**Interviewer II:** They would do the pre-blast survey?

**Resident I:** I don't think they ever had a pre-blast survey.

**Resident II:** They didn't care. They come in and anything. If it was cracked they'd say they'd say we done it. They didn't care.

**Resident I:** They never did a pre-blast survey. They didn't care.

**Interviewer II:** This is the company that's here now?

**Resident II:** No, the one before, I don't know who owned that, strip out there . . . Hobet? Hobet mining, they were real good.

**Resident I:** They never notified, you know, that they was going to be shaking your house, or anything like that. I never remember any of it if they did, but...

**Interviewer II:** But they would admit that they caused damage?

**Resident II:** They admitted it.

**Resident I:** If we said, well now this, because some of the houses were new houses, a lot of them older houses, ours was an older house that had been moved in.

**Resident II:** And redone, we'd redone it. We bought it.

**Resident I:** When the four-lane was coming through, we bought an old house and moved the whole house, over on our land. It was in good shape, because they had brought it in and redone it all . . . but ah, a tear here and leak'in here, you know.

**Resident II:** It takes about three trucks to take it up that four-lane . . . it was cool, I tell you what it was fun to watch it. Then they brought it up the road. I don't know if you have been up Scarlet. Well, it was real wide then. All the trees were gone when they put in those tracks so we get it lucky, and they brought it right-up the track.

**Interviewer II:** For goodness sakes, it does sound like it's really neat.

**Resident II:** It was. It was really cool, and for the price, that guy done an outstanding job.

**Resident I:** He had our home and my son had had a home. It was a garage but he converted it into a home. And my daughter had a trailer, so we were compensated well for it. I mean it's not mine no more, you know, and it's not the families no more, but...

**Resident II:** I would like to have at least been able to get the land back in case the grandkids or somebody wanted it.

**Interviewer II:** Who owns the land. Does the mining company still own the land in that case?

**Resident II:** They had an option at one time there, to...

**Resident I:** We were supposed to have been notified when we got done, so we could buy the land back... And I never pushed it. And it's my fault that it's there's I guess.

**Interviewer:** Did they approach you about purchasing your home or did you approach them?

**Resident II:** That was in the original deal. We haven't heard nothing since them, have we?

**Resident I:** What, you mean when they bought our home?

**Resident II:** When they bought our home, we told them we needed the option.

**Resident I:** I guess, they probably, after... everybody...they were tearing everything up, you know all the complaints. They approached us.

**Interviewer:** How... Well, I'm getting ahead of myself. But, when they approached you, did you have discussions with them back and forth about how much, or did they give you a price that they were willing to pay and say . . . how did that work?

**Resident II:** When they bought us out?

**Resident I:** Well they... I can't remember no big lot of talk about price.

**Resident II:** No, I know they was paying fair market for what the same thing you would buy a new house for. It went by the square feet. The same thing with land, you know.

**Resident I:** Considering, not only did ours, but then theirs, because of all the kids with our land. We got the lot the got the lump sum in turn. We gave them what they have anyway.

**Resident II:** We gave the kids whatever they had... whatever their house was valued for, we give it to them. Well, I told her you know, that's only fair. Yeah, we give them whatever in here they say this was worth, and that's what they give... told us it was worth.

**Resident I:** We wanted to know what this, our home, plus the land, now the land is ours... what you think you'll be given us and then in turn what do you think theirs' is worth, just the house.

**Interviewer:** So you never went out... they did all the appraising and gave you the information?

**Resident II:** Right. Then it was up to you if you accept or whatever and it was such a fair price and you know, we'd already looked at this and made an offer on it.

**Interviewer II:** This house was existing when you bought it, when you came here?

**Resident II:** This house is over 100 years old. It needed redone all that but, with all new stoves and everything. It's a great place though. Twenty-four more or less acres. We own the woods.

**Interviewer II:** Do you own up against the mountainside here?

**Resident II:** I own to the top of the hill. A lot of land. I told them to save it in case the kids need a place for a home. I don't need the money.

**Resident I:** Can't take it with you. I asked the Lord to take care of our needs, not our wants. Because we want too much sometimes.

**Interviewer:** Well that's always the case I think.

**Resident I:** I don't try to live up to the Jones and the neighbors.

**Resident II:** We have had more since we are retired now we ever had when we was working.

**Resident I:** I feel we have bettered ourselves.

**Interviewer II:** As long as you have your health and a roof and clothes on your back and food on the table, you can't complain about anything.

**Resident II:** Well, we got boats and campers and when we want to use them we use them. If we don't want to use them they just sit up there.

**Interviewer:** Actually, you mentioned an interesting point. You said you feel like you've bettered yourselves since you moved here.

**Resident II:** Oh yea, we did. We definitely did.

**Interviewer:** It's a better situation than what you moved out of?

**Resident II:** A lot better house.

**Resident I:** I wouldn't say better situation. I wouldn't say a better community. I'm just saying it . . . when you look from where was then from where we are now, it was hand-to-mouth most of the time. Of course, then he was working every day. Maybe that had nothing to do with it, but we lucked up – got into a good community, got into a good house and what we thought was a good home. We like it. And that's what I told him, as long as we like it that's all that counts.

**Resident II:** It is peaceful here. You...

**Resident I:** Contentment. Peace.

**Resident II:** You never hear nothing unless a dog barks at somebody.

**Interviewer II:** It is very quiet up here. You are removed from the road.

**Resident I:** That's important, I think.

**Resident II:** You can... My keys are the camper, and my keys are in my truck. You all can't do that no more.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, my mom and dad did that growing up. The keys were hanging right by the door to the house.

**Resident I:** If they even made it in the house. Most of the time, I can remember hanging in... hanging right there by the back door on a nail or something.

**Interviewer II:** Never locked our cars up. Now, where we used to live, everything was locked up, not that it was a crime, it's just that's the way my wife grew up, where you locked stuff up because you weren't born in an urban environment.

**Resident II:** Well, if somebody steals it and you let the key in it's your fault.

**Interviewer II:** That's right.

**Resident I:** We go on vacation, we just tell our neighbors "hey, we're going to be gone for a few days" so they will notice who is coming and going. Lock the house, but ah... We always have a key somewhere. One time we went on vacation and I thought "oh man I forgot to turn that coffee pot off. I *know* I forgot to turn that coffee pot off." Like you say, the community, here's the community thing. I'm in a good community, but I didn't call my next-door neighbors who would be able to walk right up here and turn my coffee pot off. I called somebody that lived above me at 27. Because, I mean I trust my neighbors, you know. I would give them a key in a heartbeat as far as that goes if I needed to or they needed it. But, the bond is, I called him. I said listen, I got this major thing, I am on vacation... He said, "Oh well, good where you at" and I said "I ain't got time to talk,

I'll tell you about it when I get home, o.k?! What I need for you to do is I need you to go on back to the house and turn the coffee pot off." He laughed, I didn't think he was going give me a second. He said, "Well honey, consider it done. You all have fun and I'll talk to you when you get back."

**Interviewer II:** Oh, that's good. That gives you that peace of mind, having people like that around.

**Resident I:** That was some of the people that had some of the land off Mom and Dad, who lived above us.

**Interviewer:** Did you see a lot of people moving in when the mining came into the community? Did the people who bought the land, did they work for the mines at all?

**Resident II:** No, they moved out. It became a ghost town. *Now* they are moving back in, up 27? It's 'cause they tore all the houses down.

**Resident I:** Most of the guys, a lot of the guys, I would say, and the men, worked for Hobet that lived....

**Resident II:** That lived in the community.

**Interviewer II:** Oh that's really interesting.

**Resident II:** Yea, they moved out and communicated from where ever they lived.

**Interviewer II:** So, did you have any connection to the mines at all?

**Resident II:** No, I always worked underground.

**Interviewer:** So you actually worked on the underground mines themselves.

**Resident II:** Yea, I worked for 27 years or so, underground.

**Interviewer II:** That's interesting. Did the mining operations, did like Hobet before, or even this mine, do you know, other than, sounds like the mining company before was more concerned with what was going on in the community. . .

**Resident II:** They were, 100% more.

**Interviewer II:** So, you are not seeing any benefits, so to speak, in terms of community improvements or anything that this company might be doing?

**Resident II:** No, huh uh, they sample our water and that's it. That's the only thing I have ever seen out of them.

**Resident I:** They hired them [water samplers].

**Resident II:** I think the EPA might be hired them. To get the last and that first of this hollow and I think EPA done that, I don't know.

**Interviewer:** Probably the state I think, the Department of Natural Resources.

**Resident II:** Because they come up. If we are not here, they leave us a report.

**Resident I:** A report. The last time, when they came to get another sample, because that's what we asked for, we want the report . . .

**Resident II:** They came the second time to get a sample. They said, "Can we get a sample?" I said, "No you didn't leave me no report." So they was gone and they came back in about a week with a report and they said, "Can we get a sample?" And I said sure. I said, "I'm not being hard, but you live up to yours and I live up to mine." so now they . . .

**Interviewer:** Now, this is a company that is right next door here, is that right?

**Resident II:** Well, he said he worked not directly for Massey, but for I thought he said EPA wanted a first and last in this hollow. They're kinda keeping...

**Resident I:** It's a private . . .it's a private.

**Resident II:** They are going to check the water here for a year and see if they are affecting it, you know, our water. We are not in the line, as far as the mining goes...

**Resident I:** This company up here has sunk so many wells.

**Resident II:** Yea, they've sunk all of 'em. All of 'em.

**Resident I:** Duncan Fork, Gillman's Drive and I don't know what the name of all them places. Even upt Scarlet now.

**Resident II:** I know you have seen some water tanks around here, haven't you?

**Interviewer:** Right. Yea, somebody was just telling us about Ducan Fork this morning.

**Resident II:** It's bad, I'll tell you.

**Interviewer II:** We've seen a lot, in fact we saw at least two signs coming down the road this morning where the state is actually doing, or the USDA is doing public water supply projects.

**Resident II:** Yea, they are trying to get them hooked up. In Duncan Fork I think they are already starting to turn the water on there.

**Resident I:** Yes, it's a mess at Duncan Fork. I've got two kids up there. My daughter's got . . .

**Resident II:** I've got an Aunt up there... Then after they got close to the surface, they said that was over 100 years old. The well was here before, before any of these houses were here. Beautiful water too. The guy said you couldn't make it no better, he said you can't buy water this clean. I was telling him about the hand-dug well - over 100 years old. And that's the one they're testing.

**Interviewer II:** Go up and take a cup and drink it right from there.

**Resident II:** Well, it's delicious, like clear as can be.

**Resident I:** Used to be you could go up to the head of the hollow there and drink out of the creek too, but I wouldn't recommend that now more. Not with this anthrax and stuff...

**Resident II:** It stays dry, now too – the creek does.

**Interviewer II:** You think that's? You think that might...

**Resident II:** I don't know if it's just a low water table or what, but it stays dry.

**Resident I:** It used to run all the time.

**Interviewer II:** That's pretty amazing that water streams up in the hillsides, you know, you usually have some water flowing there, even in the dry period.

**Resident II:** We know ah well, I don't know if you've ever been in the mines but that's an awful big hole.

**Resident I:** Yeah, that water is going somewhere, isn't it.

**Interviewer II:** Two years ago, we toured the Hobet mine that Arch Coal has up 119, south of Charleston. We toured that mine and that's just unbelievable, you know, the types of operations they have on their surface mines, and I don't think you can imagine it until you actually see how vast

they are. And Alexa has seen some mines, too. It's truly unbelievable.

**Resident II:** My wife don't like mines...

**Resident I:** He went to take me in where he worked underground one time. I'm like... I get in and it starts getting dark and I kinda keep getting lower and lower....

**Resident II:** There was big blocks on the wall.... It was a nice mine to walk in and look at. But then sandstone, they just fall right out. They're laying there, you got to go around them, they're as tall as you.

**Interviewer II:** Oh boy! I'd be like you.

**Resident I:** My babysitter, we took her with us, and we took the kids, you know. Of course, now adays they wouldn't let you do something like that. But, my babysitter loved it... Me and the baby went out to the van . . .

**Interviewer:** Tell me a little bit about what the things that you might have seen when you were living in Scarlet from the mining. Were there benefits in that community? I know we talked a little bit about here, but what about when you were in Scarlet?

**Resident II:** I don't know of any benefits other than employment and surfacing the road. I'd say they helped the road a lot because they brought a road across, then they would hardtop it all the way up. Like that one the did on the hill back there. I would say they were a big part of getting it surfaced. There's nothing cheap about Hobet. There wasn't, I don't know about now.

**Interviewer:** And the employment that you talk about, was it people living in Scarlet that they hired when they came in?

**Resident II:** Yes, in the hollow.

**Resident I:** The younger generation, younger than myself and "specific name". I'd say they worked there when they was blasting, you know. That's the only thing I can see, you know, as far as a benefit. I think that's good that when people comes in and brings work into our area that they hired locally. I can't say they didn't hire out of state, but I could see some of the local people getting in.

**Interviewer:** What kind of . . . to the best of your knowledge, did those people, when the mine moved on, did they move on with the mine? Or...

**Resident II:** Most of them yes. . . . places like that.

**Interviewer:** Where were other people in that hollow employed otherwise?

**Resident I:** A lot of them retired. A lot of them retired. I would say probably half of them. Like the kids lived there, like I said, just a tight community. You know, their Dad is done working and retired. It was a lot of retired. Lot of, lot of generations as far as kids that worked for Hobet, their kids is now raised, you know. I guess I could say it's just like half and half. Half of them was the elderly, the older people about to retire. There were a few of the older people like they worked elsewhere. But, I'm assuming that probably if they would have applied, Hobet would have considered them it being a union, you know. I think it was union wasn't it? They have the union standards they have to go through. I am sure if "specific name" would have wanted a job - he was a good electrician, they would... He could eventually gotten on there. But he never was interested in working there.

**Resident II:** I never was interested in it... The surface job, I was always making big . . .

**Resident I:** He always had surface cards in case push come to shove he had to.

**Interviewer:** Can I ask you a couple of questions about moving out of Scarlet? Did you have any interest in doing that other than from . . . let me phrase this better . . . What would you say was your primary reason for moving?

**Resident I:** Primary reason for moving? Well, they made us an offer we couldn't refuse.

**Resident II:** I would say the houses was all cracked up. Your foundation was cracked and all your friends had moved. Then why not?

**Interviewer II:** I guess, you know, instead of like staying in Scarlet, they bought you out one place so there was no real reason or incentive for you to move or stay within the Scarlet area. Your option was to move totally out of the area? .... Just because of what was going on.

**Resident II:** Right, out of the area.

**Resident I:** I don't think we could have not.... The whole hollow... you either sold to them or you stayed and that's what you ended up with, with whatever you ended up with. You know what I'm saying? I don't know, but the people did stay there . . . people did stay there and pushed to get bigger and better and more . . . and I don't think they got anything out of it.... You know what I'm saying?

**Resident II:** They didn't even get their house fix.

**Interviewer II:** Your decision to move, you think was a good move?

**Resident II:** Yeah, I think it was...

**Resident I:** It was a benefit. Because this was it, you either . . .

**Interviewer II:** Now, you had said about your sense of community, that would probably be it sounds like . . . What was the top things that you think you miss from the Scarlet area, besides like the effects of the mine? You know you had talked about the sense of community...

**Resident I:** I miss family. Because like I say, I have a lot of aunts and uncles and cousins . . . you know there is a few of us in the area here, but then there's more like over in Logan County towards Chapmanville, I am sure you all realize that, it is like they're just mixed up . . . it's a sad thing that we don't see each other. That's what I miss, the bondness. Being able to walk up the holler and spend the afternoon or visa-versa. Now it's only for a funeral anymore. You know what I'm saying? Somebody died, we all come together and I say it's a shame that we have to reunite at a funeral.

**Interviewer II:** Yeah. We say the same thing back home.

**Resident II:** Oh, that's true. I don't know my cousins...

**Interviewer II:** It's a shame that the only time you get together is when there's a tragic - like a death in the family, or something like that.

**Resident I:** We talked about having like a... Like every year we talked and never have had what we call, like, a community reunion. But it has never happened. I think it would be something good. I mean it just forces you to bond, and come together...

**Interviewer II:** You have family reunions and almost like the community that you live in is almost like your family.

**Resident II:** Yea, they were good people. They were closer than family, a lot of when we left. They did for yeah, what family wouldn't.

**Interviewer II:** But living in this area, you are not . . .

**Resident II:** We do not . . . anybody here. No.

**Interviewer II:** You don't have that bond or relationship like you did back in Scarlet?

**Resident II:** No, there's no friend that close here.

**Resident I:** Like I say, I was born and raised up there. From the time Momma got me from the hospital, it was my friends and my family . . .

**Interviewer II:** So it's interesting, you felt that the mining company that is back in Scarlet was a good neighbor in one sense, but because of the events that caused you to move out because of the mining operations, sorta broke that up. So it was sort of an ironic type of situation. They were good to you in once sense in terms of their concern, but their actual affects... where the operations had been conducted . . .

**Resident II:** Yeah, they were... they were outstanding...

**Resident I:** And we, you know, we seen some of the. . . I know if this has anything to do with it . . . I know we all gotta set time to die. You know, I know that. But we seen a lot of the elderly people that did sell . . .

**Resident II:** They never could get satisfied. Some of them moved to like Cincinnati, and stuff. They had their own little business up there. Retired and played cards and stuff . . . had a hobby and it give them something to live for. And they got there, and they didn't have nothing to do so they just. . . cracked. Cause, they spent \$200,000 on a place down there and couldn't get it back out of it. It was all tied up.

**Resident I:** Just rolled up and died. I've always...

**Resident II:** They didn't have enough sense to manage their own affairs, so they left their kids and the kids done dirty. They said, "No you're not going nowheres." That's what happened to my uncle and he died down there. I mean it's sad, but kids will do that.

**Interviewer II:** They said money is the root of all evil. I think is what they say.

**Resident II:** It's learned me a lot of lessons. I'm not giving mine to anybody and anything until I'm dead. I know it may sound harsh or something, but you can't trust your own kids.

**Interviewer II:** Yup, this day and age.....

**Resident II:** If you give them power of attorney, you're liable to be anywheres... Nursing home. All they've got to do is say, tough love... and then you're in a home. That's it, you can't move, you can't leave, you can't do nothing.

**Interviewer II:** Right, exactly right.

**Resident II:** I mean it's sad, I mean I'm dead serious. I never would have thought that when I was growing up, you know 18, 19, and somebody would tell me and I would say, nah you're nuts.

**Resident I:** You kept care of your own. You know what I'm saying? Your momma got old, you took care of her. You know, grandma moved in with you, you know. If she wasn't close enough for you to go over to her or something.

**Interviewer II:** Not like today. Yea, society has really changed. I think we have all come to live our own lives. I know I am as guilty of it today as anybody else. It seems like you just live in your own little world.

**Resident I:** You got this tunnelvision.

**Interviewer II:** Whatever's out there, even within your own family, you are not as concerned about them as your own welfare and being. I feel guilty about that, you know...

**Resident I:** Well, you need to reconsider it then. Go home and call. (laughter) "Hey, how you doing?"...

**Resident II:** Yea, I've got a Dad that's still involved with grand kids at 80 years old. He always has time for everybody. I can't do that, but I wish I could.

**Resident I:** He used to mention that "I will never be the man he is," and I don't think a lot of us will be.

**Resident II:** He still walks 2 to 3 miles every day. Goes out on the mountain. Looks good too.

**Resident I:** He took his great grandchild up the other day. My daughter went up to clean his house, she can't ... my Mom's got back problems... She's a working class, you know, she's one of them 9 to 5ers, or 7 to 8, or whatever. But anyway, she leaves what needs to be done at here house and she goes up there. And of course, her husband's third shift, he's in bed, so she takes the child with her. He's 4 years old - active 4 years old. Thinks there ain't nothing like hunting and fishing. Pure country boy. She was up there cleaning them carpets and stuff. And he said "o.k. grandpa what do you want to do?" Uh, Pop Pop, sometimes he messes up and he calls him Daddy ... just like a kid. And he'll say, "Well 'Specific Name', Well I mean PaPa 'Specific Name.'" "What do you want to do? You want to go outside and rake leaves? What do you want to do?" And Pop Pop said "Well I thought I would just get my 22 and go up the hollow and shoot." Because every time he goes up there Pop Pop has to show his guns. Let me hold it, let me feel them. And, honey, he's in hog heaven... you're gonna take him up that hollow and let him shoot an automatic 22? You know. He has a 22 himself, a single shot, you know. So you got just that one shot, before you got to put another one in.

**Resident II:** He couldn't get his finger off the trigger. He wanted to keep shooting. He shot it like 4 or 5 times.

**Interviewer II:** That's a way of life. I know hunting back home that's a way of life. When deer season comes around, things shut down. Has the mining operations affected those types of enjoyments that you have had?

**Resident II:** No, no there's more deer than ever.

**Resident I:** With Hobet, I think it made the hunting more accessible. Because of the

**Interviewer II:** Because of the roads that were provided?

**Resident I:** Right, roads provided for, and you've got 4-wheel drive and you've got 4-wheelers. Or whatever, you know.

**Interviewer II:** Now the fishing... Did you actually see any impacts on the fishing?

**Resident II:** I don't know, we never did fish in the creek. We always fished in the lakes. You know, and they're what? 90 miles away, or 70 miles away where we always fished.

**Resident I:** Well, you fished the creek.

**Resident II:** I fished this creek, yea you're right. I take this boy down here and there's plenty of small mouth bass and then they'll have a spill up here at Delbarton and then there's no more fish. I mean this is over night.

**Resident I:** You can see the connection that takes upon the...

**Resident II:** I believe people report'em or something, because they clear it up. But you can't bring the fish back. I mean it... we had small mouth bass like this at the start of Spring.

**Interviewer II:** Right... That was just this year?

**Resident II:** Yea, then it comes high waters and the water, you know, you could tell muddy high water from black waters. And when the water goes down, it's black, they can't live. That cleaned them out. What in April and May, we would catch small mouth bass, even during a flood, he would take his lures down there and throw them out and bring the fish in, small mouth bass like that.

**Interviewer II:** And that's in the creek right down there?

**Resident II:** Right down at the bridge you crossed. But there's not enough small mouth bass in it now. Now, maybe next year, when they come up . . .

**Interviewer:** If they come up from the other creek?

**Resident II:** Yea, they come up from the river. He's a fisherman, I'll tell you. I hate to see the spills, you know...

**Resident I:** You often wonder, you know, if it is an accident or...

**Resident II:** Well it is always going to flood. I mean, you know, when the water gets up they always say, "Well, that broke loose a spill," you know.

**Interviewer:** That's what happens. Their pond...

**Resident II:** Their pond is over . . .

**Interviewer II:** Is that the cleansing pond, that they clean the . . . may overflow and get into the waterway.

**Resident II:** Yea, so it could be true, then, if he had enough rain to raise your creek, then it could raise their pond. I hate to see it though. We don't have as many floods as we used to do we? Very seldom now, the water gets up.

**Interviewer II:** Yea, we could use the rain, that's for sure, but . . .

**Interviewer:** Tell me a little bit about when you were living in Scarlet, what kind of physical impacts, you talked about the blasting and the house shaking. Did you have any specific things that occurred at your home? Did your well... Was your water fine while you were there?

**Resident II:** Water was fine, except, it got real gassy, super gassy. I'm telling you, it would blow the cabinet doors open. When the pump would kick on, it would blow the top off the pump house. And I went in there and it blowed cabinet doors open cause, I believe it was right by that vent. I didn't know, I didn't have enough sense to know any better when I was younger. I built it wherever the well was you know, that's where I built the pump house. What it done, it come through that vent and it would ignite dust rags and whatever you had in there, napkins or whatever, it would blow the cabinet and then I would put the fire out under the sink.

**Interviewer II:** Now would that be when you say it would ignite, that's actually the natural gas from the mines that would seep up in your well and when you, when the pump would turn on, of course, there's a little spark involved.

**Resident I:** I wouldn't say that had to do... I wouldn't really say that had to do with Hobet... I would say that the underground part of it.

**Resident II:** We never had that problem for years thought, I mean. We never had that problem up until all that started...

**Resident I:** No, we finally had to vent it. And another way of lighting it, burned it off.

**Resident II:** Yea, I put a vent in it.

**Interviewer:** Let the gas, you know, just go out.

**Resident II:** Yea, and lighting it, see. It would burn sometimes 4 or 5 month in a row.

**Interviewer II:** So you actually had natural gas coming up through your water well that you actually had to vent it off... to burn it off so you wouldn't have a hazard.

**Resident II:** It was dangerous. If you get a leak or something, it was dangerous to go in there with propane, cause I done it, not thinking. and just as soon as I strike that propane, it would burn hair....

**Resident I:** I don't know how we survived!

**Interviewer II:** Yet, you laugh about it.

**Resident II:** You don't know whether it's in there. The first time I done that. Man, I was 23-24.

**Interviewer II:** Did you smell the gas?

**Resident I:** Yes, you could smell it.

**Resident II:** I can't smell gas, I've been around it so much, I guess.

**Interviewer II:** I know yesterday, we were driving up and there were some gas wells you could see up along 119 and I could smell it and I was telling Alexa and she said she couldn't smell it.

**Resident II:** Well, a lot of people... I'm not sensitive to it.

**Interviewer II:** It depends on how sensitive your smell is.

**Resident I:** If you get a nostril full.

**Resident II:** Ya'll live in a beautiful place, but I wouldn't want to be in Pennsylvania right now.

**Resident I:** Well, Pennsylvania, we've been there.

**Resident II:** We've been through there a few times. I have some good friends from that state.

**Interviewer II:** Well, I really enjoy it up there.

**Resident II:** A guy I was in the Navy with. His dad...

**Resident I:** His dad owned the Coca Cola plant. Owned the company?...

**Resident II:** He got out of the Navy and lived about four months, I think, and got killed in a car wreck, I think.

**Interviewer:** It is a different lifestyle, you know everywhere you are... But I think after driving around down here, there's something really to say for living in these places that are beautiful all around you.

**Resident II:** If you can get used to setting on a porch, or just going camping, or going bowling. Or going hunting... If you get used to that... I'm not going to bother you.

**Resident I:** Just like it would be different to go from here to go to a city.

**Interviewer II:** Yea, that's kinda like my Mom and Dad grew up, they had an hours drive to major facilities, or something. And we grew up, I mean, right behind our house was one of the state forests in Pennsylvania. So, as a kid growing up, I entertained myself by walking the dog in the woods and going fishing, or going... after school my best thing was to get the 22 or the shot gun to go squirrel hunting. That was the most... I miss that, I don't get to do those things.

**Resident II:** Oh yeah, they run right through the yard now.

**Interviewer II:** Oh yea, they're like rats.

**Resident II:** I see pheasants right here in the road.

**Interviewer II:** Do you really?

**Resident II:** Yea, I've got chickens up there so I'll get some food and put it out there and watch the pheasants...

**Resident I:** Watch them and deers come in.

**Resident II:** You can get within from here to the door of them. I don't kill them because... they're you know too tamed.

**Interviewer II:** Yea, cause they are always too tamed. There's no sport in that.

**Resident I:** I never forget, when we first moved up here 'cause... those boys came coming up the hollow. Come up with their grandpa or something, on a four-wheel or something and they were out there talking and it was about hunting season and things. And you know, talking about the hunting coming in, and we're saying "I'm come up here on your back porch, and I'm gonna get me a deer." And they say, "Hey you're not getting on my back porch and get no deer". If you're a man, you go out on the hills and hunt. If you're big enough to hunt, you go out to the hills and hunt. You don't kill nothing around my house.

**Resident II:** I see six-point deer standing in the yard.

**Resident I:** Well now if this deer goes up the hollow you can shoot him there, but don't shoot him in my yard.

**Interviewer II:** Yeah, I think the best part is just going out to hunt.... Just peaceful. Just peaceful.

**Resident II:** We've got cabins up those mountains.

**Resident I:** You just laid the law down about how you feel about it. If you're big enough to hunt you're big enough to go in the hills, if you don't expect it to come to you, you go to it. The big surroundings, the hillsides.

**Interviewer:** I don't mean to keep jumping back . . .

**Resident I:** That's alright . . .

**Resident II:** You do what you have to, yea, go ahead.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me a little bit more about when you decided to move out of Scarlet. Did the company talk to you at all about where you were going to be moving?

**Resident I:** Nope. They could've care less. I mean it wasn't, it wasn't . . . that wasn't their responsibility to find us a place, it was our responsibility. They were paying for us . . . they give us plenty of time and extra time if you needed it. You know what I'm saying, it's not like you've got 90 days and that's it. Because I know it took . . . I mean it didn't take us that long. But, I'm sure it took some of the other ones longer because they weren't fortunate to find a place as fast. I didn't feel that was their responsibility, you know.

**Interviewer II:** They didn't compensate you for your move that you had to make?

**Resident II:** Yes.

**Interviewer II:** They did compensate you for your move?

**Resident II:** They gave me \$5,000 moving money.

**Interviewer II:** Oh that's great. . . I mean I don't know if that's *great*, but that's...

**Resident II:** That was to move five miles. That ain't bad is it? That's why I'm saying, it is a good company.

**Interviewer II:** That's really good.

**Resident II:** \$5,000. But, if you had a trailer and you know that pretty well compensated for moving the trailer, you know, 4 or 5 miles.

**Resident I:** That's what they gave my daughter . . . because she had a single wide trailer and she took her home with her. You know, so they compensated for getting a well drilled, you know but . . .

**Interviewer II:** That's interesting, I was just thinking the aspect of compensating for your property, but I was thinking boy . . . my wife and I just got done moving into our first home and ah, thinking there's expenses involved that were questions . . . they actually reimbursed or gave you some assistance on moving expenses.

**Resident II:** \$5,000 moving expenses.

**Interviewer:** And you thought that that was adequate?

**Resident II:** I thought that was way above adequate.

**Resident I:** Yeah, because we didn't move what? How far are we from there? Ten miles?

**Resident II:** Ten miles. If that, maybe eight or ten miles, yea. Depends on which way you go. If you go over that hill . . .

**Interviewer II:** Now, is this mining company here, is it actually displacing people, actually forcing them to move out of the area in their operation?

**Resident II:** Not unless, no . . .

**Resident I:** Not unless because they are out of water.

**Resident II:** Not unless because they are out of water, or like my daughter, bought a new home for what \$100,000 or so and it's got those big beams underneath her house, they've turned over. And they said, you know, the mines didn't do it.

**Resident I:** Going down that way under her house. Right under the matt, going right-square under her house.

**Resident II:** It's right under. She's got this big fancy house with that wood, you know, going down in it, a big home, and it's cracked up now.

**Interviewer II:** And they didn't do a preblast survey on that that you know of?

**Resident II:** Uh, I don't know, do you know?

**Resident I:** I think after the complaints and stuff started, I believe that they had sent people out, but . . .

**Interviewer II:** In terms of mending the situation?

**Resident I:** But they, it was a day late, and a dollar short there. You know what I mean?

**Resident II:** I believe it's a fly-by-night company. I know it is Massey, but I believe that Delbarton mining is going to be the sub-leaser and then when they go broke I believe it will be a wake-up. I believe. I mean that's the way it appears to me, I think. They put everything on hold as long as they can. Maybe it won't have to run back, fall back to that other company.

**Resident I:** They ain't near, they ain't near as good.... What they've done to what Hobet was.

**Resident II:** Hobet, Hoebet was probably Massey, I don't know, but... I don't really know.

**Resident I:** See that was the underground versus the strip.

**Resident II:** Yeah, it is like a bunch of groundhogs, digging up under you.

**Resident I:** If I had to say which one I would prefer, as a person, underground versus surface, I would have to say surface.

**Resident II:** Yea, it's a lot better I think.

**Resident I:** I mean, my husband worked on underground. Retired from it. As far as damage-wise, I would say, I would say that surface... I mean hate to see the hills tore up, you know. There should be stipulations to fix them back up and put your animals back and then your trees, and replant and all that stuff. That would be, that's just my personal opinion, everybody's got an opinion.

**Interviewer II:** Well, actually, just from the people we have talked to, it doesn't seem like the aesthetics is a big a deal as what some of the . . . like it seems like the impact that they have had in terms of personal property and water wells and things . . . it seems like that's more of a . . . that's your own personal type of feeling, you know, all the... you've got plenty of mountains, I mean, I don't know about you Alexa, but to me it just seems like we haven't heard a lot about how they've made their scenery, you know, degrade it. We may have heard a few here and there, but it doesn't seem like an overriding . . .

**Resident II:** They didn't seem like they hurt it up there, because they replanted... apple trees and stuff like that. It was real nice, where they've moved out.

**Resident I:** A lot of them is against it thought, a lot of them. You know, they go to see the underground next to the surface.

**Interviewer II:** Just for the pure reasons of what they are actually doing to the landscape.

**Resident I:** Right. Right.

**Interviewer:** Clarify something for me, because I didn't quite understand. When you were talking about people decided to stay versus, going ahead and being bought out. You said the people who stayed have tried to get bigger and better. Clarify what you mean by that for me.

**Resident I:** Well they, as a whole, the whole hollow was offered the option to sell out, you know, reasonable rates, and like I say, whatever the going rate for land and homes and stuff, you know. Everyone of us up the hollow was offered that option. Some people thought they had, I guess, thought they was gonna get rich from it I guess. You know what I'm saying? They didn't like what they offered them, you know, it wasn't enough. They couldn't move for that, and, it's not like there was \$100,000 homes up there. They might be now because I think they had a couple build up there that's really nice, but . . .

**Interviewer II:** They were just maybe holding out for a better offer.... And it didn't happen

**Resident I:** For more money. Yeah, for more money. That's basically what it was. Like I said, I don't know their business, but I don't know if they ever got compensated for damages or anything.

I really don't know. But, I would say, out of the whole, I would say there was probably... they might be ten families up that holler.

**Interviewer:** Why would you say, I know you mentioned that you lived at the mouth of the holler.... Why would you say that you decided to move when you knew that you weren't as impacted as much? You know what I mean?

**Resident I:** Because... they wasn't around up back of me, they were at the head of the hollow. They were coming over the mountains from Logan County. So the people up the head of the head of the hollow was really, really impacted. You could see the impact, you know, it was visual. Your cracks down the cinder box, and some homes were made of pure cinder blocks that had cracks going all the way. So I thought, that was an advantage for us, that we lived we lived all the way down... they hadn't got all the way down behind us.

**Interviewer:** But you felt that they were going to get down behind you.

**Resident I:** I didn't see any reason why they wouldn't get down behind me. You know, they had the option . . . I don't think they ever did, to my knowledge, but they got, they got behind..... I don't know how far they did get.

**Resident II:** They're not done yet, up there. They got all kinds of deep mines going in, in and around that area. So, they're not really done with the land yet.

**Interviewer:** There is one other part of all this that we haven't talked too much about that I wanted to be sure and ask you all about and that is before the mining comes in . . . now you said, were they surface mining as long as you owned that home or?

**Resident II:** Yeah.

**Resident I:** Yeah they was, wasn't they? They was still up over in Logan County.

**Resident II:** Well they had that one little ole strip back in there. Then they, they really went big time after that. They were augering, you know more or less just what they could get with an auger. Yeah, it was there when we first moved in, or when we first got out of the Navy. She still lived there.

**Interviewer:** So, in your experiences, you lived there, probably a little bit before they were really doing very much there. Did the company come in . . . and how did you all find out what was going to be happening? I guess, is what I'm getting at...

**Resident II:** That . . . when they brought that ole big thing in there . . . that big crane deal that you see along the roads and stuff, and you can see across the meadows and stuff. When they brought

that in, that's when they started to come around a talk to people. Well, I don't know if they started to them or until people started to complain about the blasting and then they assigned "specific name" somebody, one of the Massey people to come around and talk to us.

**Interviewer:** They had an agent?

**Resident II:** Yea, right. Then they had "specific name" or something like that, there was two or three different people. He was real nice and done everything he could. But that was, they didn't actually come around until after the people started complaining about the blasting.

**Interviewer:** Did you feel, see notices in the paper about the permits and things like that? Did you ever see those or read those?

**Resident II:** Mom probably did, I never do read the paper.

**Resident I:** We have had a paper and then it might . . . papers never was. . . .

**Interviewer:** So you didn't really . . . so they might have been there but you didn't, you know, read the paper.

**Resident I:** I'm sure they were because, I think by law you are supposed to.

**Resident II:** . . . don't pay no attention to them, Mom does, and she reads all of it and I never did. I don't think I've ever read a paper in my life.

**Interviewer II:** So this permit information, you know, really, even if you knew about them, does it cause you to react in any way or is like well it's just, you know, a piece of information that doesn't mean much . . .

**Resident I:** It wouldn't, it wouldn't have made me mad.

**Interviewer II:** And seeing that permit, did that give you any thoughts of what you need to do to react to that permit notice?

**Resident II:** It does now, it bothers me now when I see these permits, especially if it's real close to my land this way.

**Interviewer:** And how do you know that it's close to your land? By the map that . . .

**Resident II:** Yeah, it's pretty just look at the map and tell, 'cause I know just about where my land runs.

**Resident I:** We don't get a paper. His mom does, so what information we got she says, "I'm gonna save this for you because there's something going on." She was telling us about what Delbarton Mining, or something like that.

**Interviewer II:** So actually though the information they do give in the permits, I mean, your mother can . . . she reads the paper and all and it's noticeable. I mean she knows . . .

**Resident I:** She's not even a high school graduate.

**Resident II:** She notices more than Dad, ah more so because of Dad because Dad will look at it and he pretty well knows too. He knows all these hollows by their road names.

**Interviewer II:** Are they always like at a set place in the paper that someone might always know where they're located?

**Resident I:** Right, classified.

**Resident II:** But there's just not a lot you can do about 'em. If they're seeking permits... if they get them they get them. A lot of people argued about them, but mostly they don't do any good. . .

**Resident I:** I think it states or something maybe to voice your opinion, or whatever, and maybe they got a set place, or something.

**Interviewer II:** So, a public meeting where you go and talk about it?

**Interviewer:** But you never felt like that going to those meetings or sending a letter or doing anything was gonna.....

**Resident II:** No, I always figured you know, if somebody could work, more power to them. You know, I mean, I know that I was always looking for a job all the times they mined, 20 some years.

**Resident I:** Maybe I got the wrong opinion of it. Okay, but this is my opinion: I figure, and maybe I'm wrong, maybe everybody shouldn't feel this way and maybe a lot of people feel this way is why nothing ever gets voiced on it. I figure they're gonna come and they're gonna do what they're gonna do. My little "yes" or "no" or my little conflict or discussion I might have with 'em ain't going... because I feel that it's, it's all political. I know it's all political because it, the way it appears to me, who you know and what connections you have. That's sad.

**Interviewer II:** Yea, I mean it's definitely part of your economy. So there is some, ah.. influence there that ah....

**Resident I:** Maybe I should be more vocal or more verbal towards it.

**Resident II:** I don't know this time if the coal was worth what they done.

**Interviewer:** To the community you mean?

**Resident II:** Yeah, from the time you turn up the road, you're 2 or 3 miles up the road, you get down here to the four lane and take 119, 2 miles, 3 miles up the road then, all the way up to Scarlet hollow and in Scarlet Hollow. And in all them little hollows in between – the water is gone.

**Resident I:** They say that to attempt to drill a well it would take 100 years. That's what my daughter said.

**Resident II:** Yea, they said 100 years before you can drill one.

**Interviewer II:** To get the water supply back?

**Resident I:** To get the water supply back up. This is after they leave out of the area, I think. Of course, that's two different topics, you know.

**Resident II:** They've been what three different, they've drilled two or three times on our property.

**Resident I:** But they've had a lot of public meetings and officials, three to four officials. And I don't know that anybody from the coal company comes, but they did have a lot of meetings and a lot of concern. Like I said, I don't know if this is just the communities meeting with the political officials, or if in turn the people from the mining industry, I don't really know. But they, you know, I do see that happening.

**Resident II:** This mine was too close to the surface. Too close. Not enough coverage, that's what done it.

**Interviewer II:** Did the coal trucks, like the transport of coal, did they impact you in Scarlet or here?

**Resident II:** Not as much in Scarlet as they do here. It's pure dangerous here. I mean, you just go out here, go out here and watch, you know what I mean. That's all you gotta do watch the trucks coming. They'll take their part of the road. You have to be careful while you are all here. You could be killed with a coal truck. They're dangerous.

**Resident I:** I think the companies could be better with... not necessarily truck drivers in general, but the poundage, the weight they haul. Because I seen on the news the other day, this one guy said, "This is my living," and I can understand it. "This is what I feed my family with and pay my bills.

I have to load this truck as loaded as I can get it, otherwise, I'm losing money. And this is my position." Nothing personal, but still, I think the company needs to be more relatable to, and the state too, to the amount of coal that's on it. When it shuts off other vehicles, and . . .

**Resident II:** I think they ought to haul by rail, personally. Truck the coal to the tipple and then haul it by rail.

**Resident I:** They're getting it to the tipple. That's the thing, that's what these trucks are doing Baby, but it's such a long distance.

**Resident II:** The others, but these coming up down here are splitting it up. They can get more out of the truck and all the way down to Huntingdon. So they'll send 2,500 trucks to whatever dock, down there at Huntingdon docks creek. So they get more money out of that and then they fill the train up. It might go to the same place, but they get more money out of what they ship by truck. That's what they tell me. So, they'll split the difference, split the loads up. They'll send so many trucks to docks, for example, and then they load them.

**Interviewer II:** So, even though you have a rail siding up here, and rail facilities to ship the coal out from your . . . you're seeing trucks also.

**Resident II:** Yea, and they may be trucking the same place. But you might get more, you know more, like they told me they get more out of a truck than they do . . .

**Interviewer:** Is it more, you think it's because it's more economical, because I guess your rail service here is Norfolk Southern, right?

**Resident II:** Yea.

**Interviewer:** Is it just because what they charge to ship the coal versus what . . .

**Resident II:** Or, it might be that they need the coal right then. Or a train backs in and it might take till tomorrow to load the whole train.

**Interviewer:** Oh, I see, so a truck is instant. You load up one truck and it's gone.

**Resident II:** Yea, you just load up the truck and in two hours he's dumping.

**Interviewer:** Versus a train that might take 24 hours.

**Resident II:** Or 48 hours, or three days, depending on how much coal is on that.

**Interviewer:** Well, I can see that point now. Where loading time . . .

**Resident II:** After they get there, so they can ship it on to somewhere else...

**Interviewer II:** The loading time is more instantaneous, so to speak, with a tractor trailer versus.

**Resident I:** But you see a lot more, like I say, versus when I was young and growing up in Scarlet, and even when . . . it was never really noticeable back then, the coal trucks.

**Interviewer II:** Yeah there was more activity. Was Norfolk Southern always the rail carrier down here.

**Resident I:** I think, Chesapeake.

**Resident II:** Chesapeake, and Ohio, but that's, I don't know if they changed the name.

**Interviewer II:** Yea, they did, I know up our way that Conrail used to be the big carrier then Norfolk Southern came in.

**Resident II:** N & W, Norfolk and Western, yeah. I know all that stuff is collectible as far as moneywise, if you can buy anything with it on.

**Interviewer II:** What's amazing, they even have back home, in fact where we live, you can see the trains right out by our home and even at the rail crossing, they have a notice there that there's increase in rail traffic. So I don't know if it's . . . I don't know what's causing that, if Norfolk Southern is just better at it than the previous company, but it's interesting.

**Resident II:** I don't know either. But they can haul so much, can't they?

**Interviewer II:** It's amazing what they can haul.

**Resident I:** I was raised with trains. Living up, born and raised, living up Scarlet that the trains went up that way, the mines was at the mouth of the hollow. It was like 11:00 in the night you hear the train coming up. Pulling empties, pulling empties up and then backing back down. And if they come during the day to pick them up, the engineer, he would bring candy.

**Resident II:** That's them old timers.

**Resident I:** You know, that's a thing of the past too. You know what I'm saying? Gum and candy. We would look forward to him coming up during the day time... we would always hear them in the night. Probably the same engineer every night . . . That was an advantage of being the kid at the mouth of the hollow . . . All the kids would say, and they known about the schedule because all the kids knew. I would tell them, you know, hey they are throwing candy out. They ought to come

down here. (laughter)

**Interviewer II:** Where do most people in this area work? Do they work for the mine here or do they work elsewhere? I know with surface mining, we've understood, we understand that it takes light labor because of the large equipment that they have versus underground mining, but... . .

**Resident II:** It's really, it's changed a lot any more. There's a few . . .

**Resident I:** Professionals, most people, if you ain't a coal miner, you're into the . . . I mean where the money is, the medical field. Nurses, lab techs, that's where you see a lot of the younger kids that's going, going to college for that type. Engineering. The guys will do some engineering.

**Interviewer II:** So they are definitely not looking towards the mine for their future employment?

**Resident I:** I don't think so.

**Resident II:** No, not as much as they used to. No.

**Resident I:** You know you've got some, but it's so hard to get in the mines any more.

**Interviewer II:** Because of the unions?

**Resident I:** No, not necessarily... they just...

**Resident II:** They're not training really, like they used to. They brought in a lot from Mexico and places like that now and training them up, Mexicans. Massey is, instead of hiring people around here. Mexicans.

**Resident I:** They're paying cheap wage, cheap labor, training their people. If our younger generation...

**Resident II:** \$6.00/hour, you know, versus \$15.00

**Interviewer:** So, that causes conflict with the unionized workers?

**Resident II:** Massey is not union really, so I don't know. You know, I haven't been around it, I've just seen it up there and to know for a fact that it's going on right now. That's something I never seen in my whole life, you know...

**Resident I:** Versus, they won't take our younger people that might be interested in going in the mines and training them. You know, pay, maybe not pay... I think might be because our kids won't

take that cheap a wage.

**Resident II:** And they probably won't work as hard. I mean seriously, you know.

**Resident I:** Kids nowadays **are** lazy, you know, mine just as well as the rest of 'em. They won't give you the op. They won't say, "Hey, you've got a head on your shoulders, you know. I really think I could train you." Just like "specific name", his Dad was in the mines. One of the best electricians there was, you know, but in turn, they seen "specific name" and his brother, you know, they seen the option there. And back then, still it was hard to get in when you come it. It was just luck. "specific name" came out of the service working for a mining repair shop where they repaired the mining equipment. He was delivering something to the coal mines and they had this problem electrical-wise. They was ... they was shut down, wasn't running no coal. They was a having a big situation. It's a major catastrophe, you know.

**Resident II:** They just didn't have no electricians. They just didn't have none.

**Resident I:** "specific name" said "Well, what seems to be the problem?", and they were "hmm" you know and told him what they thought might be the situation. They said "You care to look at that?" and "specific name" said I don't care a bit and they hired him, you know.

**Interviewer II:** Wow!

**Resident I:** So, that was how he become an electrician. It wasn't because....

**Interviewer:** So that's what you did in the mines.

**Resident II:** Electrician, electrician, chief electrician. But I had some, had some college electronics while I was in the Navy, they sent you to . . .

**Resident I:** He's been around electricity, and his Dad has done all this all his life, wired houses, and he went along with him. Now you don't just walk in off the street and say, "I think I see your situation or your problem." They'd say, "Well go put an application in." It's all special work now.

**Interviewer II:** Ah, being an electrician that's ah... you can almost get a job anywhere.

**Resident II:** I could. You know you could about name your wages. If you didn't like it, you just quit. That's what I always done.

**Interviewer II:** So really the community around here is really . . . I don't want to put words in your mouth, but tell me... my assessment is it's really not benefiting the community overall here, is that right or wrong?

**Resident I:** The mining?

**Interviewer II:** The mining. I mean at least in this one here.

**Resident II:** This one up here hasn't, I don't think ever benefited them. It's hurt them more so than anything else.

**Resident I:** Yeah, it's hurt their name. I know... I think the community...

**Resident II:** The wages are cheap here too.

**Interviewer II:** Right, in contrast to the other mining operation up in Scarlet.

**Resident II:** Yeah, the other one was done right. And they paid good wages and . . .

**Interviewer II:** So the management, it seems like,

**Resident II:** Seems like the management has gone, gone south for the winter up here.

**Interviewer II:** Right, the benefit, the benefit of the community, or if it is or if you want to call it a benefit, or how they make out and what impacts are being cause, . . .

**Resident II:** Maybe the benefit to the community is what taxes they pay, I don't know.

**Interviewer II:** Right, but I mean in terms of the company itself, either it's good or bad, it might come back on how well managed that company might be in terms of . . . like Hobet, it seems like they were very concerned.

**Resident I:** I thought they were.

**Resident II:** I don't believe anybody would miss them if they just left.

**Interviewer II:** In this situation?

**Resident II:** Right, if they just closed the gate up here . . .

**Resident I:** 'Cause we're not personally interested, not yet. Knock on wood... Not personally impacted.

**Resident II:** Lot closer.

**Resident I:** And we're just hearing like second hand news, you know. It's second hand news, they might be more... they may be communicating more . . .

**Resident II:** Because if you walk this line to the end, then you will be standing in the road on their land. The mining land, so that's how close it is.

**Interviewer II:** So you abut right against their property?

**Resident II:** That's exactly right.

**Interviewer II:** Now the Hobet mine, you think if that one would have left... Are they still mining up there, I assume?

**Resident I:** No.

**Resident II:** No, they're mining in Boone County or somewhere...

**Interviewer II:** So, that town that they have left, or do you think that that has actually hurt that town that they left or do you think that they are better off now than what they were during the time when they were mining?

**Resident II:** Well, there's nothing up there now up in Scarlet hollow.

**Interviewer II:** In other words, things were better before the mine came in it seems like.

**Resident II:** It was a more thriving little community. They didn't have no Mayor or nothing, so it was just a spot anyway, you know. But there's nothing there now. They burned all the houses. And they, they hired somebody to come in there and burn them. So, that's what they done.

**Interviewer:** That actually, that leads me to one other question I wanted to ask you guys and it's a little bit more personal, so I don't want to... tell us what you want to tell us, but uh . . .

**Resident II:** I'll leave and let you ask her. No, I'm just kidding ya.

**Interviewer:** What were your feelings? I know you have described to me that it was sad to leave your family that lived there, but how did you feel about your decision to leave, you know what I mean? Did you feel like people who were staying versus the people who were leaving, were there tensions there, you know your family lived up there. Were there tensions at all, were there any?

**Resident I:** Not at all. No emotions, or disagreements or no hard feelings on my part and I wouldn't think, I haven't heard of any on the others. If that's what you're asking?

**Interviewer:** That is what I'm asking. I was just wondering . . .

**Resident I:** I thought you were going to ask if it impacted our marriage life.

**Resident II:** I liked to move, 'cause we got a nicer place. Up there, you had a little ole yard and here, got a lot of open space to do what you want.

**Interviewer:** I was wondering, if the community that is still there, you know, if they feel broken up, or if they still feel like they are a community and it's just sad that other people have left. You know...

**Resident I:** Right, they miss us. When we're around, we talk to them and they say "Oh man, you all have to come up. They really miss the community. We really miss having you all here."

**Resident II:** The people that stayed there also expanded. Like, if they leased her land off of them people, then they let them have what they wanted after that.

**Interviewer II:** Do you think Scarlet will ever, other than water problems, but do they have public water in there now?

**Resident II:** Yeah, they have public water.

**Resident I:** Did they put public water in there?

**Resident II:** Uh huh.

**Interviewer:** Since public water is there now,

**Resident I:** It's opt, it's not there yet. The lines are run, but the water is not here yet. The lines are run.

**Interviewer:** But then you've got to pressurize the lines with the water itself.

**Resident II:** Yeah, they came up and flushed them out. I think there was a court thing up there or something. I think they was wanting to pay their water bills for so long and then give them \$2,000 or something if they would hook up. And then these people would pay for this and that and so I don't know.

**Resident I:** You're talking about what going on up Duncan Fork.

**Resident II:** Yeah, well Scarlet is the same way.

**Resident I:** What's going on up Duncan Fork or Scarlet or wherever, where people don't have no water. Course we have water.

**Resident II:** They got tanks up Scarlet now.

**Resident I:** There's no reason why they shouldn't be helping them people up down through here...

**Resident II:** Yeah, it something to think about, I don't know..

**Resident I:** Not that we have any need to hook up, but...

**Interviewer II:** Did the coal companies, did the coal companies help when the water supply went bad... Did they help actually fund that infrastructure, like public water supplies?

**Interviewer:** Were you all living there when that happened?

**Resident I:** No.

**Interviewer:** I mean, do they have any assistance? I mean, who paid for the water system?

**Resident II:** The county did. This was in the makings before the water went dry. This public water was, and allotted \$20,000,000.

**Interviewer:** In Scarlet?

**Resident II:** No, around here, in this community when this public water come in. Now, Scarlet, that was just part of this deal. Part of the Hobet, you know...

**Interviewer II:** You think Scarlet will ever be the community that it once was?

**Resident II:** No.

**Resident I:** I would like it, I'd like for it to be. But like for it to be and wanting it to be is entirely different. The coal company could offer people, if they would, if they would do what they said they were going to do, offer people their land back if they got done, you know. If they left town and they had left town. Maybe they're planning on coming back. I believe if they would offer me back my land, I wouldn't move back up there.

**Interviewer II:** Okay, that was my next question. Would you . . .

**Resident I:** I would personally never load up, I would never move ever again.

**Resident II:** I would buy it, buy it just for my grand kids or my . . .

**Resident I:** I would like to have it to offer to the families. I don't foresee maybe my daughter that's living over in Matewan. That might be something she would like, but the rest of my family has land.

**Interviewer:** So as far as you know, the coal company still owns that land?

**Resident I:** As far as I know.

**Resident II:** Yeah, cause they're still leasing it.

**Resident I:** But they're you know, I would like to see that, you know. I think it would be good.

**Interviewer II:** Interesting.

**Resident II:** I know when we went through the woods when I was a young kid and when I moved up there. Well, I was 20, 21, 22, you know and I'm 53 now.

**Interviewer II:** How many people worked in Scarlet when you folks lived there?

**Resident II:** When we, when we left roughly, 35 or 40.

**Interviewer II:** That's families or people?

**Resident I:** There were more than that. There were more than that, Baby.

**Resident II:** Well, I'm talking about different families. I know there wasn't more than that. As far as people, you take 4 or 5 in each family, and that's a lot of people.

**Interviewer II:** That's a lot of people. How many families do you think are there now?

**Resident II:** Ahhh... I say if there's 10, no more than 11.

**Resident I:** If there's 10, no more than 15. I can almost name them.

**Interviewer II:** And you think that decrease in the number of families is directly due to the . . .

**Resident II:** To the buying out . . .

**Interviewer II:** To the buying out part of it.

**Resident I:** But, like I said, I could see the community coming back if they offered the land back to us.

**Resident II:** It may be a different generation than us.

**Resident I:** Right, but it would still, you know, I think the first opt for the land, was supposed to be made to the people they bought it off of. And then in turn we had so long to decided. If we decided not to then....

**Resident II:** I can close my eyes and feel I've been there, you know. Yeah...

**Interviewer II:** Yeah feels like the back of your hand, hun?

**Resident I:** But would it be to who they bought it off of versus, you know, I think the community could come back, it may not be the community that it was, but it would be, you know, growing. That's kind of scary now when you think, you know 35 or even 50 homes or whatever they was up to versus 10. It's kinda like, kinda like scary because there's so big a distance between a home.

**Interviewer II:** Is Scarlet close enough to places of employment, like if the people were to come back, they would come back, you know, maybe to live there. But what would, you're talking about a different generation, what would be their incentive to come back? ... if they might have had family ties there?

**Resident II:** Because there's no land.

**Interviewer:** There's no ... if they would come back ...

**Resident II:** There's nothing to buy now.

**Interviewer:** It's land available to buy. Is there employment opportunities around, you know, that they could go to for employment?

**Resident II:** No more than ... there used to be other than these stores, you know. Wal-Mart and places like that.

**Interviewer:** Sorta like the retail type.

**Resident I:** The malls unless the they can do anything professional.

**Resident II:** Lot of skill training down here, something to put your skill into. Like my boys was body men, working on cars and painting and stuff. So, wherever you're skilled then more or less, but there's no land to be bought now.

**Resident I:** You can see, you know . . .

**Resident II:** There are these little ½ acre lots are \$30,000, you know. And it was before, you know . . . \$100 per lot.

**Resident I:** 20 years ago, you could see a vast area between the homes, now they're like on top of each other.

**Interviewer II:** Especially in these valleys, you know. There's a very limited amount of land that you can actually put a house on, so to speak.

**Resident I:** Well, they don't care now adays. It's one deal. They build it up to where every the need it to and go on out.

**Interviewer II:** Exactly, exactly, that's interesting. Have you seen this community change at all too, up the holler here.

**Resident II:** Well, not up the holler, it's all owned. But you can see on the roads filling up, everything, any place they can buy.

**Interviewer II:** Even though the mine's here, they're still buying the land if it's available or buying? . . . do you see people moving in and out, like different faces or maybe you're not that connected with . . .

**Resident II:** No, we are not really connected that much. We don't even see no places for rent no more. Do you?

**Resident I:** Not a whole lot.

**Interviewer:** I think we've covered pretty much everything that was on our list. Did you all have anything that you wanted to add or to tell us about Scarlet?

**Resident II:** No, I mean, that was home, that's the only thing about it. I think I miss more than she does and it was her home. I mean it's where she was raised. But, I probably miss it more than she does. But it's, I guess, a lot to deal with . . .

**Resident I:** Life changes.

**Resident II:** Life changes. I had my kids all around me then.

**Resident I:** But, I miss it.

**Resident II:** I had my fruit trees up there that I planted, you know, they were doing real well, I come up here and didn't have no fruit trees.

**Resident I:** They wouldn't let us take anything, no flowers, nothing. Anything connected to the house. Like your cabinets.

**Resident II:** So I planted all these apples that you see here, and cherry trees, peach trees. I planted everything you see since I came here.

**Interviewer:** Why do you think that was? Why do you think they wouldn't let you take your flowers? ... I'm sorry, we have so many voices going on over this tape, I'm afraid I'm gonna miss something. Can you explain that to me a little bit?

**Resident I:** When they bought us out they said "everything stays that's connected." And we asked about the shrubbery, and like he said, he had his young fruit trees that he had planted that we could have picked up and moved. It might have hurt their season, you know, for a year or two, but they would have come out of it, you know, and flourished. But they wouldn't let us take no fruit trees, no shrubbery, not that we have a lot. The fruit tree was well, he was mainly concerned about them. But they wouldn't let us take anything that was connected to the home, tied into it like built-in cabinets.

**Resident II:** Stoves, fireplace, you know your metal stoves.

**Resident I:** We did have the old fashioned heating stove and stuff.

**Interviewer:** Did they give you any explanation for why?

**Resident I:** It was just part of their buying.

**Resident II:** Six weeks later, somebody come along and collected them all and sold them.

**Resident I:** And that's kinda disgusting, you know. They broke into your homes.

**Resident II:** I came here and had to buy the same stove that's right in there.

**Interviewer:** You said, "broke into the homes", do you think it was the coal company who . . .

**Resident II:** Security, whoever had security on it.

**Resident I:** They didn't have security at first. That was before they had security, when they hired people to come in and go up and down the hollers and watch what's going on in the nights. Observe and see things like that, they just broke in different places and took things out.

**Resident II:** All the stoves, anything they could sell you know.

**Resident I:** Anything that was left that was of value they took.

**Resident II:** 'Cause I thought that maybe would look bad on us, you know.

**Resident I:** We tried to cooperate.

**Resident II:** Figured they'd open the door, and find it ready to move it, you know. For anybody else. I think that's what they had in mind in original, but...

**Resident I:** But, when I sign my name to something, you know, and it says I'm not gonna leave and not gonna take this . . . or if I tell you, 'Hey, I'm gonna sell you my home and I'm gonna sell you everything with it.' I couldn't take as much as a picture off the wall, because my word is good.

**Interviewer II:** Now, when they gave you your fair market value for your home, did you know that you had to leave like stoves . . .

**Resident I:** Well not at first we didn't, not at first.

**Interviewer II:** I mean you were just expecting when you moved out of your house, just like you would make a move to another place, that you could take the refrigerator . . .

**Resident I:** Refrigerator, the stove, you're cooking, your electric...

**Resident II:** You could take that, you couldn't take a water filter or nothing like that.

**Resident I:** Pumps, water tanks.

**Resident II:** And when you move into a place like this where you have to put pumps...

**Resident I:** Very seldom do you find in this area and I want things . . .

**Resident II:** I swear to you that they had to leave their blinds up here when we bought this.

**Resident I:** On the average, now adays, when you buy, or when you sell a place, they come connected, your blinds and things have to stay. That's just the way it is now, times have changed. But, like I said, I could sell my house today to you or to whoever else, and you would say well, I really like this, and this. You know, I would leave it like it is, for so much more you could have the whole contents. You know what I'm saying? 'Cause otherwise, it all goes with me. Because a lot of people like that, they like how it's decorated, not that mine is decorated really nice or anything. But they don't want to have to go through all that their self. They don't have time for it versus, maybe they think they don't know how.

**Resident II:** This house has four fire places in it, on every corner.

**Interviewer:** Oh really?

**Resident II:** That's the reason you got flat places.

**Resident I:** That's why they say it's 100 years old.

**Resident II:** You go to the other side, it's that way. The bedroom, the living room... they built them all.

**Interviewer II:** Each room had to have it's own heat source.

**Resident I:** But when we come in, they were all closed up. My first electric bill, I about had a heart attack. Started punching holes. We don't have the one in the living room open and we don't have this one here open.

**Resident II:** I got a fire place, you know, a fancy fire place in the bedroom. Out of what they had and then we use a stove here. We don't, still don't owe, what \$35 on electric. And then in the summertime, sometimes the air condition don't run no more, you know. This place will stay cool until 2-3:00 in the afternoon. Until we have to turn any air conditioners on. She puts that plastic up because she's in her own business. All her freight comes and you don't want it to get wet, you know, in winter, it's unpredictable and the fall, so stuff. They'll leave it for her. I'm retired, so I just do whatever.

**Resident I:** What ever we want. Adding anything to it or not the conversation. There's nothing much more to add. You all covered a lot.

**Resident II:** They were fair with us, when we moved. The only thing I would like to see changes, I would like that opportunity to buy the land.

**Interviewer:** I'm glad you brought that up.

**Resident I:** I would like to have that opportunity.

**Resident II:** And I would say if you talk to anybody else, that would be their only.

**Interviewer II:** You said other people back that you knew at least in Scarlet, if they got anything else out of the deal, it would be to have the opportunity to buy their land back?

**Resident I:** And we was told that we would have that opportunity.

**Resident II:** Right, and I have never heard nothing. Now, it may still come.

**Resident I:** It may be that they've got something else planned for the land and they don't want to relocate people and just have to do it again.

**Interviewer II:** But still there's an uncertainty there. It doesn't seem like you feel there's a guarantee or you know for sure that they . . .

**Resident II:** People are living on there, you know, now they are still living there. We was at the mouth of it, we was the first place at the holler.

**Resident I:** Which was a mile and one-half, two miles off the main four lane.

**Interviewer:** Well, you know thanks so much for talking to us. I really appreciate you taking the time....

**Resident II:** I enjoyed it. It brought back a lot of memories.

**Interviewer II:** I'm glad, I hope you enjoyed it. We enjoyed it just as much.

**Resident II:** Well, I would say 90% of the people, or 95% that you talk to would say they would like to have the option to buy the land back.

**Resident I:** They may even want the option to move back. Like I said, I wouldn't. I've been away what 12 years, we've been up here 12 years?

**Resident II:** Yeah, 10 or 12 years.

**Resident I:** Going on 12 years. This is home now. But, that also used to be and I would like that option of having it. For hereditary reason, you know to pass down... to say hey.... I could still say hey listen, my grandpa, or my great grandpa used to own from here to here, you know. Basically

almost up the whole holler, up to the fork. Generations back. His dad, and his dad's dad or something. It all started out in the family, as a family thing, that whole hollow did. Kinda like branched off – this one bought this one and that one bought that. I would like to have that option. I know I could never own what my dad owned up there, unless I got rich. Win the lottery. That was a little heart breaking, that part. “Course it was heartbreaking when my Mom and Dad sold it, I just couldn't understand why they did that. Because they were living... where were they in Ohio? They were living in Ohio. Like I say we got some good friends and neighbors out of it, but still it was... They didn't need it, so they sold it. I was fortunate to have what they sold to me. Which they seen to that, because when you buy it from for nothing, it is really about a gift to keep it. To keep the family from saying it was given to me there was money exchanged for it. But, it wasn't nothing that broke me up. Because they were selling to us kids. Don't want to say that I give you something that I didn't give to them. But, ain't none of them saying they want to live or wanting to relocate back here, so.... I was the baby . . . . gotta take care of my baby.

**Interviewer II:** Well, Alexa?

**Interviewer:** Yeah. We appreciate you giving us your time. You've got our card there if you think of any questions that you have....