

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

0064: Marshall University Oral History
Collection

Digitized Manuscript Collections

1988

Oral History Interview: Michael Abshire

Michael Abshire

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/oral_history

Recommended Citation

Marshall University Special Collections, OH64-484, Huntington, WV.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Manuscript Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in 0064: Marshall University Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

484

WEST VIRGINIA STRIP MINING

WVSM.20

PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED BY WV DEPT. OF ENERGY

June 28, 1988

STATEMENT BY: Michael ~~Adshire~~
Abshire



Public Hearing held by WV Department of Energy in Lincoln County, WV, on June 28, 1988, regarding an application by Black Gold Coal Company and Mountain Black Diamond Coal Company to strip mine at Six Mile Creek in Lincoln County.

Statement by Michael Adshire:

Hello, I'm Michael Adshire, and I'm a resident of Six Mile; maybe one of the only few of the ones that's up there that's in favor of this strip job. I believe if Lincoln County wants to get on it's feet, we have to be in the support of work coming in to Lincoln County. West Virginia is known for coal. It's a coal state, and if our people wants jobs, they're gonna have to let this company come in. I am formally was employed with uh, a drilling outfit that had to go out of state, and work. I spent a lot of years working. I'm tired of that, and I'm in favor of this strip job. I know that this company has been citated for various reasons, and they've complied with this and tried to put everything back, according as they as the law has stated. They made a few mistakes, but don't we all make mistakes? So I would say tonight that we should be in favor of this mining. I know that Six Mile back in years past, has been known as the marijuana field. I know that personally. I've lived there and I've know what's went on there, and no doubt it probably still is. People is on marijuana. This is what the younger generation is strivin' for; a lot of the people that's protesting this tonight has already got their livin' made, or the younger generation has done got it made on marijuana. I'm not one of those tonight. I believe in workin' when we have the opportunity. And as you all know, if Lincoln County...if our people wants to go to work tonight, we have to leave the state to do so, and that's a shame tonight. When we have a company that's wantin' to come in here and go to work, and yet there are people that's opposing it. I've been...they've been people said that if I would speak, I'd get throwed out of Six Mile. I might be one of the only fewest people on Six Mile that's in favor of it, but if you wanta throw me out, I'm up there. And I believe in standing in what I believe in tonight. And I believe in working tonight. And I believe in favor of this job, this mining operation coming in. And I believe tonight that we ought to stand up for it, if we got any backbone about us at 'tall, instead of so many people sitting back and not speaking tonight, all of our opposers are speaking, why not some of the people that's for it stand up and speak? I'm not one for gettin' into public opinions about things, but when it comes down to it tonight, I believe that sometime we have to take the stand in what we believe in. And I believe in work tonight. I believe in workin'. And I have to see any woman that could stand beside of me and run a power saw all day long. I would like to see that tonight. Any woman that's able to run a power saw all day long, I would like to see that. Because tonight I know that that is hard work. If our people wants to go to work, we're gonna have to stand up for it tonight. And so tonight I believe that we should stand up for this mining operation tonight. Regardless of what's been said and done, I believe that we should stand up for it and give these people a chance. They've got laws to go by. And I'd like _____ and if we don't stand up for

this, we're in bad shape. We're on a downhill slide tonight. They's nothing in Lincoln County. They's...they's no jobs nowhere. They's no jobs in Lincoln County. And if we're against jobs coming in to Lincoln County, then I'm the first one to tell you that you're in bad shape. So, thank you tonight.