

Interview with George Yost/Ronnie Hall Summary
Interviewer: Christy Collins

For the Appalachian Teaching Project, I interviewed George Yost and Ronnie Hall, both natives of Fairview, West Virginia. Fairview is home to the Loveridge No. 22 mine, built by the Consolidation Coal Company in 1956. Fairview is unlike other West Virginia coal camps in that the coal company did not establish the town. In fact, Fairview is more noted for an oil boom that happened during the 1890s than the coal mines. What is also unique about the Loveridge No. 22 mine is that only the mine was built; there are no company houses or company stores.

George and Ronnie drove me around the Fairview and surrounding area, reminiscing about their childhood and what different locations meant to them. They pointed out the mine, but we could only see it from a distance since only employees could enter the mine site; Ronnie Hall had made an effort before the interview to get us onto the mine site, but his request was denied. We also took a number of back roads to view different aspects of the mine site, such as the dams and large equipment used. We then drove out to Metz, WV which is about 10 miles from Fairview. At Metz, and two other locations, are mine portals that connect to the Loveridge No. 22 mine. Throughout the interview and travel, George and Ronnie discussed the history of Fairview and both indicated that Fairview is not primarily known for the mine, but for the oil in the area. It was obvious that both men took great pride in their community as they reminisced about their ancestors who had founded Fairview, the people and events of the community, and the stories they shared about their lives in Fairview.