

use. I think it is all relative. It reminds me of a story of a fellow driving down a road in Kentucky and the road was winding and he could not get in front of the truck. The truck had a big canvas cover and the truckdriver would get out and just beat the side of the truck, jump in and go down the hill to the bottom of the next one and do the same thing.

Finally, after the third time he did this, and the fellow still could not get by, he said, "Say, Buddy, what are you doing?" He said, "Well, it's very simple. You see, this is a one-and-a-half-ton truck and I have 2 tons of canaries in here, and I have to keep half of them flying all the time."

Historically, strip mining is much safer due to the less dangerous conditions in the mining areas. I refer to the danger of roof falls, the problems of air circulation, water removal, explosions due to gas, and so forth.

Strip mining meets the requirements of natural resource conservation because of almost 100 percent recovery of the minerals against only 50 percent recovery by other methods.

Strip mined coal is easier to prepare or process because the mining produces less fine coal and the fines are the most expensive portion of the product to clean. This also tends to reduce cost and aids in conservation as less coal is lost in the preparation and processing.

There are additional beneficial effects of surface mining which even the U.S. Department of Interior's special report to the Nation, "Surface Mining and our Environment" states and I refer to desirable hydrological effects from the strip areas in the retention of rain which tends to diminish the dangers of flood, diminishes the amount of erosion, augments the ground water table, levels off the stream flows during dry weather, and forms lakes and ground water sources where none existed before.

The mining access roads to the strip areas when made available after mining is completed can be of considerable value to the public for the multiple land use of the area. The fact that most of the abandoned strip pits form ponds or lakes which provide all types of water recreation spots such as swimming, boating, skiing, and fishing gives an added benefit to the public.

I sincerely feel the above 11 reasons or advantages of strip mining over other types of mining adequately prove the need for strip mining of coal.

The second item to discuss would be the types of surface mining. I have a couple of illustrations here I might show and I will go through them hurriedly. I realize there are only a few here.

I know you two gentlemen are pretty conversant with the open pit mining but the open pit mining that we use in coal is a little different and I would like to at least give you a quick story about it.

This illustrates the open pit mine which you are familiar with where you have an ore body in the middle and you bind a pit, take the overburden out along the side and this continues down in the same area and benches as you have to enlarge the body and enlarge the mine. Now this mine could be 600 or 700 feet in diameter, it might be a mile in diameter. Some of the pits, as you know, have been in the same location for 60 to 70 years or more. This is strictly a separate kind of open pit mining.