

Swallowed

Nick: It's unlike anything. The only way that I can describe this darkness, it, it swallows the light. And what I mean by that, if I went on the opposite side of this pillar and shined my light this way and you guys were standing here and the lights went out you would see a faint light. If I went down this tunnel and shined this straight back up this way you would see my light but it wouldn't reach up here. It swallows the light. It's the craziest thing I've ever seen. Somebody asked my dad one time--no, I'm sorry, my grandfather, um, and this has been quoted a million times but it's a fact. Um, they were in Church and he asked him if he knew where Hell was and he said "yeah about a quarter-mile." He was talkin' about underground in a coal mine. That's hell on Earth. Plain and simple.

I know of no other place in this country, uh, with the pride that this place has. And I'm talking your Old Timers, what we call Bulldogs. That was the mascot here in Lynch. Your old Bulldogs that was a pride that I've never seen before. And I contribute that to workin' in a dangerous environment like that. And I compare it to the military in that if we're in battle we're fighting, you know I gotta watch out for the guy next to me. He has to do the same thing. It's the same way underground it's so dangerous you have no idea. There's a million different things can kill you in a million different ways. Think of it like this the air that you're breathing is killing you. It's killing you. And when you're workin' in here guys if you don't have a bond with somebody, you not gonna last long. Okay it's just like the military. He's watching me, I'm watching him. Okay. I'm watching his back, he's watching mine. That's what saves lives in a coal mine.