Asarco

Fifty-four fifty-seven is now out on strike.
We seek from ASARCO what we deem is right.
Till hell freezes over, we’ll continue to fight.
We won’t beg or plead from ASARCO.

Chorus:
Our plea, our plea is for you and for me
To demand what we want from this company.
No-one here will go down on their knee
To beg or to plead from ASARCO.

We shut off the heat to the plant and the staff;
The schools had to suffer on our behalf.
The hospital too was caught in the draught
All because of ASARCO.

The company makes millions on concentrate tons,
While miners end up with lead on their lungs.
Mining makes old men out of our young sons
Producing ore for ASARCO.

A decent wage is all that we need,
A few extra dollars our families to feed.
A reasonable employer to our calls would give heed,
But we have to deal with ASARCO.

From the singing of Jim Payne
The Welfare man came by here today—
He asked us to show him our previous pay.
He added it up and he had this to say:
"There's nothing here—try ASARCO."

So stick to your guns, boys, and never relent.
Don't go back for a few paltry cents
To boost the wages of those New York gents
Who get damn well paid by ASARCO!

"ASARCO" (American Smelting and Refining Company) was written by men working in Buchans, in the interior of Newfoundland, who formed part of Local #5457 of the United Steelworkers of America. There were strikes in both 1971 and 1973 against the company, and Jim thinks that the song emerged after the second strike. After the first strike, which was lost, an album of worker's songs appeared, entitled "Come Hell or High Water".

Jim learned the words to "ASARCO" while in Charlottetown, P.E.I. from miners attending a United Steelworkers' Convention. No-one could remember its indicated tune (the Irish song "Thank God We're Surrounded By Water"), so Jim made his own.

Tony Montague
Dear Newfoundland, have I got to leave you
To seek employment in a foreign land?
Forced from our nation by cruel taxation,
Now must leave you dear Newfoundland.

Your rocky mountains, your hills and meadows
Where oft I played on a summer's day;
Where merry parties and happy picnics
Are passed from view with the boys that play.

Where oft in spring on a pleasant evening
To the blockhouse go, or the Battery strand,
Where crowds stood eager to watch the sailors
Come in the narrows of Newfoundland.

And our grand regatta at Quidi Vidi,
I long to see in my native place,
With the Hawk and Myrtle and the Lady Glover
And the dear old Native in the tradesmen's race.

All decked in hunting no more I'll see you,
Although it's years since I took my stand
'Neath the greasy pole or the wheel of fortune
On regatta day in dear Newfoundland.

Dear Newfoundland with your fisheries failing,
Your sons and daughters must leave home each fall;
Forced by poverty and cruel taxation
To the shores of Boston are home for all.

Although with friends I feel sad at parting,
My aged parents on the pier will stand
To bid farewell to their sons and daughters
Who now must leave you, dear Newfoundland.

So keep your sons and your fairest daughters
Employed here at home on your shores so grand.
May the present generation adorn your nation
Is the prayer of an emigrant from Newfoundland.
Jim learned this song from Gerald Campbell from Branch in Newfoundland, whom he described as a ‘fantastic singer’. The song mentions the annual regatta in St. John’s, which is the oldest annual sporting event in North America. The event is always held on the first Wednesday of August, a civic holiday when, according to Jim “the whole town turns wild”. Quidi Vidi and the Battery are small villages—now part of St. John’s—beside the lake where the boat races are held. The Lady Glover, the Hawk and the Myrtle are all names of boats. The wheel of fortune and the greasy pole are traditional games associated with the regatta.

Tony Montague

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**Skeacum**

Opening **Sunday January 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan 6</th>
<th>Feb 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>barry hall &amp; the scandihoogians</td>
<td>phil &amp; hilda thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>A mixture of B. C. Logging songs and Scandinavian fiddle tunes.</td>
<td>Well known B. C. Folk performers.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan 13</th>
<th>Feb 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>don mallais &amp; crew</td>
<td>john &amp; rika</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Bluegrass at its best</td>
<td>Two fine performers of Sea Shanties and traditional folk.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jan 20</th>
<th>Feb 17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mussels in the corner</td>
<td>gary kehoe</td>
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<tr>
<td>A variety of Canadian songs &amp; dance tunes</td>
<td>also the swinging singles</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan 27</th>
<th>Feb 24</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>folk dancing</td>
<td>adrian duncan</td>
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<tr>
<td>An evening of ethnic folk dancing.</td>
<td>A special evening of Australian folk songs.</td>
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Riley Park Community Centre 4660 Ontario

**Open Stage** 8:00 - 9:15  **Feature** 9:30 - 10:30

* memberships $3.00 includes one free admission admission $2.00 non-members $3.00

Performers contact SHELIA BAKER - 876-3035
out of town send cassette to 3521 Marshall St. Vancouver, B.C.

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