

Three dollar dreams kept them down in the mines, Down under-ground
 where the sun never shines, Down under-ground drilling dirty black
 seams, Of diamond hard coal just for three dollar dreams.
 They came from the lowlands, those hungry young men, And England's
 Black Country they'd not see a- gain; They were travelling light --
 some travelled lean, With nothing but three dollar dreams.

**Three
Dollar
Dreams**

by Bill Gallaher,
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Three dollar dreams kept them down in the mines,
 Down underground where the sun never shines,
 Down underground drilling dirty black seams,
 Of diamond hard coal just for three dollar dreams.

They came from the lowlands, those hungry young men,
 And England's Black Country they'd not see again;
 They were travelling light—some travelled lean,
 With nothing but three dollar dreams.

And they sailed the great oceans, through the gales of the Horn,
 Where many a man wished he'd never been born,
 And all that they hoped for, and all of their schemes,
 Were nothing but three dollar dreams.



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And those young men went down in the mines every day.
But old men came out, as their dreams slipped away;
Only a working man knows what it means;
To be living on three dollar dreams.

But dreams are for young men; they're still dreaming yet,
While old men just take anything they can get;
And often a glass or two eases the pain,
Remembering three dollar dreams.

"Three Dollar Dreams" is found on Gallaher & Galbraith, **Home to the Island** (see review, 25:4, p.46). The liner notes tell us: "There was a time when the coal miners of Vancouver Island thought that if they could earn three dollars a day, it would be a fair wage. By the time they got it, as usual, it was a little too late. Unions were a natural result of these elusive dreams."

Bill tells me that the song is based on a book of the same title, an early history of coal mining on Vancouver Island, written by an Islander named Lynn Bowen. Bill recommends the book highly and notes: "Lynn's title was too good to be restricted to a mere book, and songs, of course, are an excellent way of getting the information out to a wider audience. I also figured it was a good way to call attention to a fine book that should have a larger readership." *J.L.*