Hard Rock Miner

In Songs, Phil notes, "For the miners, it is especially important to have a buddy, not only for companionship, but also for safety. When the two partners hired themselves out again, if the mine they had come from had a good safety record and if supervision and living conditions suited them, they might try to hire on again. But being broke and footloose, they could readily hire out to another mine if they were both taken on."

This one is based upon the 1914 hit, "When You Wore A Tulip," which Hilda Thomas used as the basis for her "Condom Song" (Bulletin 29.1, March 1995)

The "water Leyner" referred to in the first chorus was a drill which mixed rock into the dust formed by drilling; previous, non-hydraulic drills, known as "widowmakers," filled the chambers with rock dust, which were serious hazards to the health of the operators.

collected by Philip J. Thomas