

Hard Rock Miner

collected by Philip J. Thomas

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.

G A7 D A7

I met you in a quartz mine in that good old town of Butte, You cer-tain-ly looked cute, dressed

D G C

in that muck-er's suit, And the shift-er said, "Come on, boys, get the muck in-to the chute, Then I'll

D7 G C

show you how to run that big mach-ine!" But times have changed since then, old pal, I've

G A7 D7

been pro-mot-ed since; The pos-i-tion that I hold to-day would el-e-vate a prince - For

G G7 C

1. I'm a hard rock min-er, I run the wat-er Ley-ner — down in the dust and
2. Three years in the Flin-Flon and two in — the Yuk-on — Two in the Coeur D'Al-

G C 1. G

dirt. You'll see me ev-ery eve-ning, when the Kim-ber-ley lights are gleam-ing wring-ing
-ene, But you lost me part-ner, when you

A7 D7 2. G A7 D7

sweat out of my shirt. went to the Co-balt and I to the South Lor - rain. 3. Ho-ly

G G7 C B

gee, but I'm tired, I wish that I'd get fired, I'd go where the green grass grows, Well, I

C G D7 G

know that I'd be pin-in' to get back to min-in' Up where old Mark Creek flows.