

Miner's Song

slowly

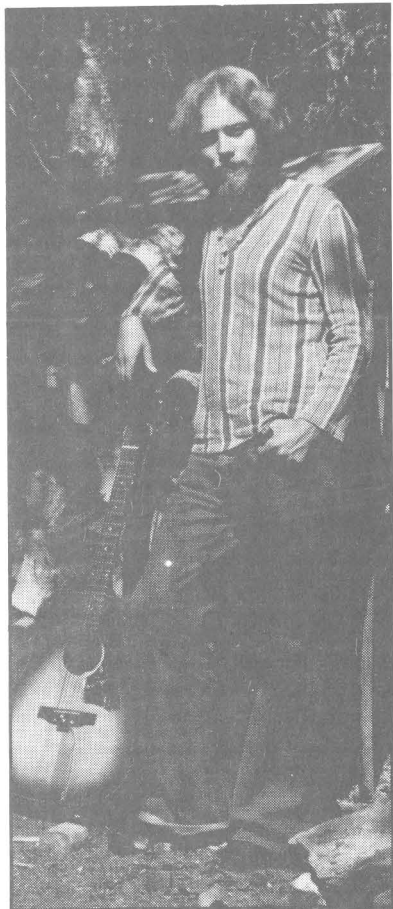
Well the red dust it lands on your car and your hair, the
moon shines so low 'neath the dirty northern air; and the
whiskey-jack, the trees, and the trucks and the ore make their
way a-long a gri-my gra-vel road And the
miner in that truck slowly makes his way back home, And
wanting some-thing wet to quench his dusty, dingy throat, And
longing for the touch of his wife; young miners do make their
way a-long a gri-my gra-vel road.

Words and music
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Well the red dust it lands on your car and your hair,
The moon shines so low 'neath the dirty northern air;
And the whiskey-jack, the trees, and the trucks and the ore
Make their way along a grimy gravel road.
And the miner in that truck slowly makes his way back home,
And wanting something wet to quench his dusty, dingy throat,
And longing for the touch of his wife; young miners do
Make their way along a grim gravel road.

The mine's closing down and your wife she gets so scared
And thinks about her home and the kid along the way,
And of all the years that you have worked, your fathers worked there too
And you crumble at the thought, and you don't know what to do
And the whiskey-jack, the trees, and the dirty northern air,
And the lakes and the streams and the red iron ore,
And the truck covered in dust, it will soon be no more,
They make their way along a grimy gravel road.

Well a miner's life, that's all you really know,
And you don't know why you keep on thinking of Toronto.
And it hurts to know you have to go, your friends feel the same way,
And they don't know what to do and they don't know what to say.
And the whiskey-jack, the trees, and the dirty northern air,
And the lakes and the streams and the red iron ore,
And the truck covered in dust, it will soon be no more,
They make their way along a grimy gravel road.



Rodney Brown

Rodney Brown hails from Thunder Bay, Ontario and has been writing and singing in that area for over ten

years. He first learned guitar from his father, Mel (see cover picture and song in this issue) and the Brown family sang harmonies to Mel's Jimmie Rogers and Carter Family songs. Rodney is deeply rooted in his community and his songs reflect the struggles, joys and sorrows of life in Northwestern Ontario. Says Rodney: "I feel that Northwestern Ontario is a beautiful place, but there's a lot of stuff happening here that just ain't that great. Native people are still suffering from mercury poisoning and the government just tells them to stop eating fish. Northwestern Ontario is used as a place to get raw materials—lumbering, mining, pulp and paper are its chief industries and it seems that those industries get richer but people here don't.

This song is about the mines in Atikokan (about 180 miles northwest of Thunder Bay) closing down and people being forced to leave. "It seems unbelievable to me that people can lose their homes just like that and have no control over the situation. Atikokan is a desperate place right now because some town officials recently invited Atomic Energy of Canada in to test drill for a nuclear waste storage site, disregarding a petition by a majority of the townspeople against the move." The song is from Rodney's album, *Freedom in Me*, available from him at North Branch Farms, R.R. #1, Kamainistikwia, Ont., P0T 1X0.