

Coal Town Road

We get up in the black down the coal town road; and we
hike a- long the track where the coal trains load; and we
make the pon-ies pull till they near-ly break their backs, and they'll
nev-er see a-gain down the coal town road.

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We get up in the black, down the coal town road;
And we hike along the track where the coal trains load;
And we make the ponies pull 'till they nearly break their backs,
And they'll never see again down the coal town road.

We hear the whistle call down the coal town road;
And we take our towels and all where the coal trains load;
In the cages then we drop 'till there's nowhere else to fall,
And we leave the world behind us down the coal town road.

We never see the sun, down the coal town road;
At a penny for a ton, where the coal trains load;
When the shift comes up on top we're so thankful to be done,
We head home to sleep and dream about the coal town road.

There's miners' little sons down the coal town road,
Playin' with their cowboy guns where the coal trains load;
But they'd better make the best of their childhood while it runs,
There's a pick and shovel waitin' down the coal town road.

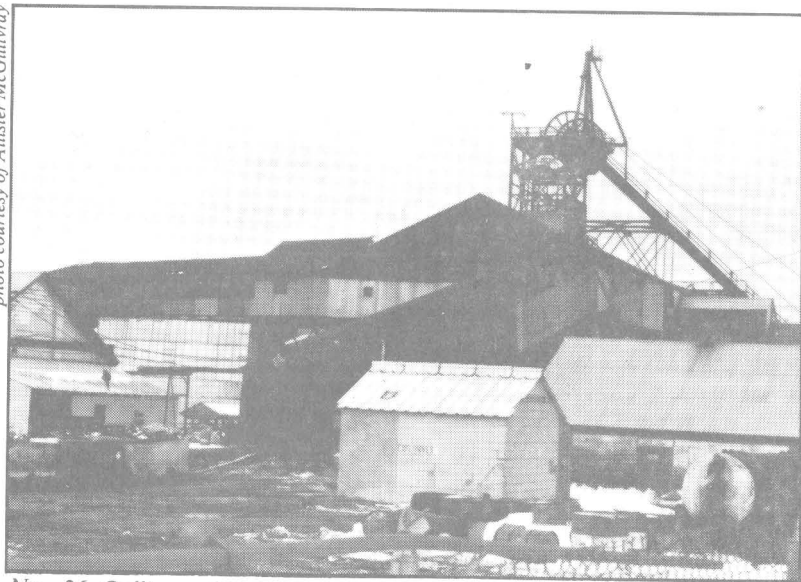
If there's a God for us, down the coal town road
All the miners He can bless, where the coal trains load;
For we're sweatin' in the hole suckin' down the devil's dust,
Just to keep the fires a-bazin' down the coal town road.

Repeat first verse.

"Coal Town Road" is based on stories of miners' lives told to its author, Allister MacGillivray, by his late uncle, Charlie MacGillivray. It appears in Allister's new book, *Song for the Mira and other compositions* (New Dawn Enterprises, Sydney, N.S., 1979: piano arrangements by Alan Feeney, intro. John Allan Cameron. 55 pp., \$5. All songs published by Cabot Trail Music, Box 57, Englishtown, N.S.) Included are twelve other songs of Allister's making, mostly dealing with present and past in Cape Breton. It's a very well-produced book, with words and music, drawings and photographs, and the title song, "Song for the Mira" is printed in English, Gaelic and French versions. You can order it by writing to Allister at 333 Main St., Glace Bay, N.S. B1A 5A4.

Jon Bartlett

photo courtesy of Allister MacGillivray



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