

# Traditional & Folk Songs with lyrics & midi music

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### Blue Diamond Mines

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(Jean Ritchie [writing as 'Than Hall'])

I remember the ways in the bygone days  
When we was all in our prime  
How us and John L. gave the old man hell  
Down in the Blue Diamond mines  
Where the whistle would blow 'fore the rooster crowed  
Full two hours before daylight  
When a man done his best, and he earned his good rest  
And had seventeen dollars at night

In the mines, in the mines, in the Blue Diamond mines  
I have worked my life away  
In the mines, in the mines, in the Blue Diamond mines  
Oh, fall on your knees and pray

You old black gold, you've taken my soul  
Your dust has darkened my home  
And now that I'm old, you're turning your back  
Where else can an old miner go  
Well, first it's Big Block and then Leatherwood  
And now it's Blue Diamond too  
The pits are all closed, and it's "go find a job"  
What else can an old miner do

Your union is dead and you're shaking your head  
They say mining's had its day  
But you're stripping off my mountain top  
And you pay me three dollars a day  
Well, you might get a poke of welfare meat  
A little poke of welfare flour  
But I tell you right now, you won't qualify  
Less you work for a quarter an hour

John L. had a dream but it's broken, it seems  
Our union is letting us down  
Last week they took away my hospital card  
And it's "why don't you leave this old town"  
Well, you go downtown and you hang around  
Well, maybe it ain't so bad  
Then you come back home and they meet you at the door  
And it's "what did you bring me, dad"

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First heard from Ringer & McCaslin. They did it well. JN

JN