

## COAL TATTOO

©Billy Edd Wheeler 1963 (arrangement by Tim Harrison)

I'm goin' down that coal road leavin' this town  
Hear the rubber tires whine  
Good bye buckeye and white sycamore  
I'm leavin' you behind

Cause I've been a miner all of my days, layin' down track in the hole  
Got a back like iron wood bent with the wind  
And blood veins blue as the coal, boys, blood veins blue as the coal

Somebody said that's a strange tattoo  
That you have on the side of your head  
I said that's the mark of number 9 coal  
Any closer I'd have been dead

Still I love the rumble and I love the dark  
I love the cool of the slate  
But I'm goin' down a new road lookin' for a job  
It's this travel and lookin' I hate, boys, this travel and lookin' I hate

I stood for the unions and I stood on the line  
Worked against the companies  
I stood for the UMWA  
Now who's gonna' stand for me

'cause I got no money and I got no pay  
All I got me is a troubled soul  
And this blue tattoo on the side of my head  
Made by number 9 coal boys, made by number 9 coal

When I die and I go to heaven  
Land of my dreams  
I won't have to worry about losin' my job  
To hard times and big machines

No I'm not gonna pay my money away on dues and hospital plans  
I'm gonna pick coal  
Where the blue heavens roll  
And sing with the angel bands, boys, sing with the angel bands