

SIXTEEN TONS

as sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford

by Merle Travis

$\text{♩} = 70$



A

Ah, _____ ba da ba. _____ (snap) (snap)

B1

Ah, _____ ba da ba. _____ (snap) (snap)

B2

mf

Some peo-ple say a man is

6

(snap) (snap) (snap) (snap) (snap) (snap)

(snap) ba dum bum bum bum bum, ba dum

made out-ta mud... A poor man's made out-ta mus-cle and blood...

9

(snap) (snap) (snap) (snap)

bum bum bum bum, ba dum ba.

Mus-cle and blood_ and skin and bones,_ a mind that's a-weak and a

12

Oo. _____

ba dumbum bum bum bum,ba dum bum bum

back that's strong. You load six-teen tons, what de-ya get?_ An-oth-er day old-er and

16

bum bum,ba dum bum bum bum bum,ba dum

deep-er in debt._ Saint Pe-ter doan-cha call me 'cause I cain't go;_ I

19

Ah, _____ ba da ba. _____

ba. Ah, _____ ba da ba. _____

owe my soul to the com-pan-y sto'e. _____

24

ba dum

I _____ was born one morn-in' when the sun did-n't shine. I

27

bum bum bum bum, ba dum bum bum

picked up ma shov-el and I walked to the mine. I load-ed six - teen tons of

30

bum bum, ba dum ba. ba dum

num-ber nine coal, and the straw boss said- a, "Well- a, bless my soul." You load

33

Oo.

bum bum bum bum, ba dum bum bum

six - teen tons, what de - ya get?— An - oth - er day old - er and

36

bum bum, ba dum bum bum bum bum, ba dum

deep-er in debt... Saint Pe-ter doan-cha call me 'cause I cain't go;— I

39

Ah, ba da ba.

ba. Ah, ba da ba.

owe my soul to the com-pan-y sto'e.

44

ba dum bum bum

I was born one morn-in', it was driz-zl-in' rain... Fight-in' and troub-le are

48

bum bum, ba dum bum bum bum, ba dum

my mid-dle name... I was raised in the cane-brake by an ol' ma-ma li-on. Cain't no a-

51

Ah.

ba. ba dum bum bum

high-toned wo-man make me walk the line... You load six - teen tons,

54

Ah. _____

bum bum, ba dum bum bum bum bum, ba dum

what de-ya get? An - oth-er day old-er and deep-er in debt. Saint

57

Ah. _____

bum bum bum bum, ba dum ba.

Pe-ter doan-cha call me 'cause I cain't go; I owe my soul to the com-pan-y sto'e.

61

Ah, _____ ba da ba. _____

Ah, _____ ba da ba. _____

_____ If _____ ya see me com- in', bet-ter

66

ba dum bum bum bum bum, ba dum

step a-side. A lot-ta men did-n't, a lot-ta men died.

69

bum bum bum bum, ba dum ba.

One fist of iron, the o-ther of steel, _ If the right one don't n-get cha then the

72

Ah. Ah.

ba dum bum bum bum bum, ba dum bum bum

left one will. _ You load six-teen tons, what de-ya get? _ An-oth-er day old-er and

76

slower $\text{♩} = 40$

Ah.

bum bum, ba dum bum bum ba.

deep-er in debt. _ Saint Pe ter doan-cha call me 'cause I cain't go; _ I

79

a tempo $\text{♩} = 70$

Ah, ba da ba.

Ah, ba da ba. Bum bum.

owe my soul _ to the com-pan-y sto'e. _