

# John Henry was a Steel Drivin' Man

Steve Earle

John Henry was a steel drivin' man  
John Henry was a steel drivin' man  
He died in West Virginia  
With his hammer in his hand  
They sing about him all across the land  
John Henry was a steel drivin' man

He beat the steam drill down and then he died  
He beat the steam drill down and then he died  
And it didn't change nothin'  
But heaven knows he tried  
He was buried with his hammer by his side  
He beat the steam drill down and then he died

There's coal beneath the mountain down below  
There's coal beneath the mountain down below  
And the company come to take it  
But the work was hard and slow  
Said, "When there ain't no money in it, we'll just go"  
Right now there's coal beneath the mountain down below

And the union come and tried to make a stand  
The union come and tried to make a stand  
West Virginia miners voted union to a man  
You'd never know it now but that was then  
When the union come and tried to make a stand

But the company brought in all the big machines  
The company brought in all the big machines  
Cut more coal in an hour  
Than a shift could in a week  
John Henry could've told 'em what that means  
When the company brought in all the big machines, hey

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