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Miner's Song

Russell Vale Youth Theatre Group

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Abstract
I am a trapper I've got my first pay Opening doors for the horses all day...
work). This despite the fact that in recent weeks there has been an Australian record set for the amount of coal taken in a single week and the possibility of a new world record being set for the same timeframe.

With the advent of the Inner Harbour and Coal Loader at Port Kembla, the Jetty at Bellambi fell into disuse and in 1965 the Army dynamited it as a training practice. In those early days, the ships were filled at the rate of 1,000 tons a day, the original jetty was 2,085 feet in length, two-thirds of which was over water. A second jetty was built in 1889 and for a time both jetties operated to take the precious coal to the industries in Sydney.

For a glimpse of what Bellambi Harbour looked like at that time, interested persons should see the painting in the Wollongong Art Gallery, in the local section, of a view from Bulli Lookout. This painting is on loan from Kiama High School and is quite large.

Neville Arrowsmith

MINER’S SONG

I am a trapper
I’ve got my first pay
Opening doors for the horses all day
Five shillings a week
Now I’m a greaser
And I get around
Greasing the rollers and the ropes on the ground
Five and six a week
This year I’m a clipper
And all day long
I clip the skips right where they belong
Six shillings a week
Wheeling’s my next job
It gets really hot
Bringing the horses back up to the tope
Six and six a week
And now I’m a miner
I work at the face
It’s hot hard work but I keep a good pace
Four shillings a ton.

This song was composed by the Youth Theatre Group for Russell Vale Community Arts Association’s Local History Project 1990.