

Mrs. Clara Sullivan's Letter
Words by Malvina Reynolds
Music by Pete Seeger
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Dear Mister Editor, if you choose,
Please send me a copy of the labor news;
Ive got a son in the infantry,
And hed be mighty glad to see
That someone, somewhere, now and then,
Thinks about the lives of the mining men,
In Perry County.

In Perry County and thereabout
We miners simply had to go out.
It was long hours, substandard pay,
Then they took our contract away.
Fourteen months is a mighty long time
To face the goons on the picket line
In Perry County.

Im twenty-six years a miners wife,
Theres nothing harder than a miners life,
But theres no better man than a mining man,
Couldnt find better in all this land.
The deal they get is a rotten deal,
Mountain greens and gravy meal,
In Perry County.

We live in barns that the rain comes in
While operators live high as sin,
Ride Cadillac cars and drink like a fool
While our kids lack clothes to go to school
Sheriff Combs he has it fine,
He runs the law and owns a mine
In Perry County.

What operator would go dig coal
For even fifty a day on the mine pay-roll!
Why, after work my man comes in
With his wet clothes frozen to his skin,
Been digging coal so the world can run
And operators can have their fun
In Perry County.

When folks sent money to the Hazard Press
To help the strikers in distress,
They gave that money, yours and mine,
To the scabs who crossed the picket line,
And the state militia and F.B.I.
Just look on while miners die
In Perry County.

I believe the truth will out some day
That were fighting for jobs at decent pay.
Were just tired of doing without,
And thats what the strike is all about,
And it helps to know that folks like you
Are telling the story straight and true,
About Perry County.