# Sixteen Tons

Merle Travis
as performed by Tennessee Ernie Ford

D$^m$   C   B$^b$   A$^7$
/ /   / /   / /   / /   **X2**
*steady swing rythm*

D$^m$                   B$^b$       A$^7$
Some people say a man is made out of mud

     D$^m$               B$^b$       A$^7$
But a poor man's made out of muscle and blood

D$^m$             G$^m$
Muscle and blood and skin and bones,

  B$^b$             A$^7$  NC
A mind that's weak and a back that's strong
    /             /

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**CHORUS:**
              D$^m$        B$^b$      A$^7$
You load sixteen tons and what do you get,

   D$^m$           B$^b$   A$^7$
A-nother day older and deeper in debt

    D$^m$                 G$^m$
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause  I  can't go,

  B$^b$          A$^7$    D$^m$  B$^b$  A$^7$
I owe my soul to the company store    / /    / /

       ***End With:*  D$^m$  A$^7$  D$^m$**
              / /   / /   /

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     D$^m$                  B$^b$      A$^7$
I was born one morning when the sun didn't shine,

  D$^m$               B$^b$      A$^7$
I picked up my shovel and walked to the mine

     D$^m$        G$^m$
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal;

    B$^b$              A$^7$  NC
And the straw boss said "well, a bless my soul."
      /             /

**CHORUS:**

      D<sup>m</sup>                     B<sup>b</sup>     A<sup>7</sup>
I was born one morning, it was drizzling rain.

D<sup>m</sup>                      B<sup>b</sup>   A<sup>7</sup>
Fightin' and trouble are my middle name.

      D<sup>m</sup>                   G<sup>m</sup>
I was raised in a cane break by an old mama lion,

     B<sup>b</sup>                       A<sup>7</sup>  NC
Ain't no high-toned woman make me walk the line
         /               /

**CHORUS:**

      D<sup>m</sup>                     B<sup>b</sup>     A<sup>7</sup>
If you see me comin', better step aside;

  D<sup>m</sup>                   B<sup>b</sup>     A<sup>7</sup>
A lot of men didn't and a lot of men died.

D<sup>m</sup>                   G<sup>m</sup>
One fist of iron and the other of steel,

     B<sup>b</sup>                         A<sup>7</sup>   NC
If the right one don't get you, then the left one will
         /               /

**CHORUS:**