It's a Working Man I Am

Words and music by Rita MacNeil. The last two verses were written by Lindsay MacPherson, one of the original members of the Mission Ukulele Circle.

Chorus:

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        G               G7          C               G
   It's a Working Man I am, and I've been down under-ground,
                                            D7
   And I swear to God, if I ever see the sun,
        G               G7          C           G
   And for any length of time, I can hold it in my mind,
                    D7          G
   I never again will go down under-ground.  ⇒ ⟨⟨
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At the [G] age of sixteen years, [G7] oh he [C] quarreled with [G] his peers,
And vowed he'd never see another [D7] one,
In the [G] dark depths of the mine, where you [C] age before your [G] time,
And the coal dust lies [D] heavy [D7] on your [G] lungs.

Chorus

At the [G] age of sixty four, [G7] Oh he'll [C] greet you at the [G] door
And he'll gently lead you by the [D7] arm,
Through the [G] dark recess of the [G7] mind, oh, [C] he'll take you back in [G] tim
And he'll tell you of the [D] hardships [D7] that were [G] his.

Instrumental Chorus

Then in [G] nineteen eighty- [G7] nine, when a [C] gas leak blocked the [G] mine
And fifty men lay gasping in the [D7] dark,
Once [G] more he took his [G7] lamp and [C] through the rising [G] damp,
He led them all to [D] safety [D7] just in [G] time.

Chorus

Now that [G] mine has long been [G7] dead, ex- [C] cept in old men's [G] heads,
When they get together at the local [D7] bar,
And [G] talk about the [G7] time when they [C] went down in that [G] mine
To bring back home their [D] children's [D7] daily [G] bread.

Chorus

Chorus A Cappella

Tag:
. . . I never again will [D7] go down under- [C] ground.