

## Sully's Pail

Tom Paxton

I've a thing or two ta tell ya that I think you ought to know  
About that rusty bucket Sully carries down below  
You're not the first one stranger, that has laughed at Sully's  
Pail  
You're the only one that's laughing now, the rest has heard thi  
s tale  
Sure, when we was young and had some, had ten years in the game  
Old Sull, he had a partner and Jim Reilly was his name  
They had knocked about together, Bingham, Butte, and Coeur D'Al  
ene  
And they brawled in every bar-room from Ely to Fort McLean  
Now me and old Ted Johnson, sure you'll not remember him  
We was working at the Rarus had a stope with Sull and Jim  
The four of us together, we was working side-by-side  
That's how I chanced to be there on the night Jim Reilly died  
Well, the blastin' had been easy, it was coming out like sand  
And we was muckin' out the ore, those days we mucked by hand  
And we was nearly finished, and I hadn't heard a sound  
But something must have happened, for Jim Reilly yelled - bad g  
round  
When we headed for the timb'ring, Sully must've took a spill  
For when we looked back in there, he was pinned beneath his dri  
ll  
The ceiling, it was groaning now, all set to drop the lid  
And Sully, pinned beneath his drill, was sobbing like a kid  
Well, there's men can watch their partners die, not throw their  
lives away  
But Reilly wasn't one of them, he wasn't built thatway  
As soon's he seed what happened, "Hey, hold on there, Sull!" he  
cried  
And before he had the words out, he had thrown the drill aside  
They come around the ore car, Reilly wearing a big grin  
Guess he never knew what happened when the hanging wall caved i  
n  
Sully reached the timb'ring, his face as white as chalk  
And Reilly, two yards back of him, caught fifteen tons of rock  
That day Sully's pail was buried, he ate from Reilly's pail in  
tears  
And he's carried that same bucket now for more than twenty year  
s  
So, you can laugh at Sull because he's mean and drinks a lot  
But don't laugh at Sully's bucket, that's the only friend he's  
got