

The 1913 Massacre

(1944)

di Woody Guthrie

Periodo: La ricostruzione e il boom economico (1946-1966)

Lingua: inglese

Tags: lavoro/capitale, repressione, miniera

Indirizzo: <https://www.ildeposito.org/canti/1913-massacre>

Take a trip with me in nineteen thirteen
To Calumet, Michigan, in the copper country
I'll take you to a place called Italian Hall
Where the miners are having their big
Christmas ball

I'll take you through a door, and up a high
stairs
Singing and dancing is heard everywhere
I will let you shake hands with the people
you see
And watch the kids dance round that big
Christmas tree

You ask about work and you ask about pay
They'll tell you that they make less than a
dollar

[a day
Working the copper claims, risking their
lives
So it's fun to spend Christmas with children
and wives

There's talking and laughing and songs in the
air
And the spirit of Christmas is there
everywhere
Before you know it, you're friends with us
all
And you're dancing around and around in the
hall

Well, a little girl sits down by the
Christmas tree
[lights
To play the piano, so you gotta keep quiet
To hear all this fun you would not realize
That the copper-boss thug-men are milling
outside

The copper-boss thugs stuck their heads in
the

[door
One of them yelled and he screamed, "There's
a fire!"
A lady, she hollered, "There's no such a
thing!"
Keep on with your party, there's no such a
thing"

A few people rushed, and it was only a few
"It's only the thugs and the scabs fooling
you"
A man grabbed his daughter and carried her
down
But the thugs held the door and he could not
get out

And then others followed, a hundred or more
But most everybody remained on the floor
The gun-thugs they laughed at their murderous
joke
While the children were smothered on the
stair by the
[door

Such a terrible sight I never did see
We carried our children back up to their tree
The scabs outside still laughed at their
spree
And the children that died there were
seventy-three

The piano played a slow funeral tune
And the town was lit up by a cold Christmas
moon
The parents they cried and the miners they
moaned
"See what your greed for money has done"

Informazioni

Una canzone sul terribile massacro di Calumet, nel Michigan, dove, il 24 dicembre del 1913, dei poliziotti e delle guardie private al soldo della locale compagnia mineraria del rame irrupero ad una festa natalizia (!) organizzata dai minatori in sciopero facendo fuoco ed uccidendo otto persone. Nel panico che ne seguì, 73 bambini vennero poi calpestatì a morte.