

# 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.