

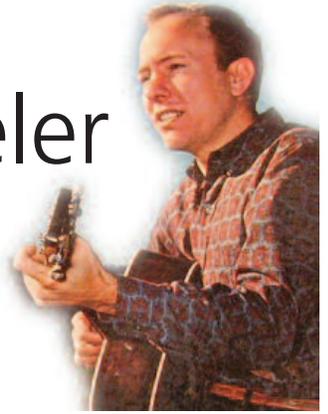
**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**MUSIC**  
**HALL OF FAME**



**Song  
Lyrics**

*When Billy Edd was grown,  
after the coal company tore  
down the little town of  
Highcoal where he grew  
up, he went back to find it.  
What do you think he  
found?*

# Billy Edd Wheeler



## **It's Been a Long Time**

by Billy Edd Wheeler

It's been a long time since I've been home  
It's been a long time since I've been home.  
It's been a long time since I've been home  
Ain't I ain't goin' home soon. No, I ain't goin' home soon.

I was born in a coal camp with stars at my head and mountains as far as I  
could see.  
I went to work every day and I had a big pay. There was honey in the horn  
for me.

But the coal dust blowed like a dark summer snow.  
And I can't hear the roar of the tipples anymore.  
Or the sound of the trucks on the line...

The town's all gone. It's gone away.  
The town's all gone. It's gone away.  
The town's all gone. It's gone away.  
The people are straw. The wind has blown them away.

I was born in a holler that was lonesome and long, where the sun didn't  
shine all day.  
But the banjos in the night and the stars' big light were pleasures I wanted  
to stay.

How could anybody know that the next year or so,  
We'd all be a-traveling over mountain and plain,  
Trying to plant our roots again.

The town's all gone. It's gone away.  
The town's all gone. It's gone away.  
The town's all gone. It's gone away.  
The people are straw. The wind has blown them away.