

## Merle Haggard

### "Silver Ghost"

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(Sterling Whipple)

On a cold and rainy night I was sittin' in the light  
Oh my switchman shack of mine post on the mountain  
The storms were pretty bad and the telephone was  
dead  
But it was just eleven hours till the dawn.

Then much to my surprice the telegraph jumped in the  
light  
As I read the code I thought could this be true  
The train was on its way headed up to mountain grade  
But she didn't have no engineer or crew.

At the other switch they tried to put her on the mountain  
side  
But she kept on coming up the mountain grade  
But I quickly douse the light to try to see into the night  
Maybe I could spot her headlight in the rain.

She was poundin' down below I could hear her whistle  
blow  
And I thought Lord that's a high and mournful sound  
Then the telegraph again there's a caving in the mine  
And the hundred men have burried neath the ground.

Lord, she's coming now I see her round the bend and  
straight at me  
And her ballet is glowin' red as coal in hell  
The headlinght switchin' wide searchin' all the  
mountain side  
But the only sound she's making it's a wail.

Then I recognized the train by the number and the  
name  
It's from miners Silver Ghost 0-40-1  
Then she vanished up the track by the lonely  
swutchman shack  
Like a mother who was looking for her son.

Now I heard the story how an engine went to glory

Over fifty years ago in the same line  
It was steaming for the caving there were men needed  
saving  
But it missed the curve in trestle near the mine.

And every now and then you'll hear a whistle on the  
wind  
It's from mountail slides where many men're lost  
It's a high and lonely wail and searching up and down  
the mountain  
It's the train they call the Miners Silver Ghost.

The train they call the Miners Silver Ghost.  
The train they call the Miners Silver Ghost...

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