

„Big Bad John“ is the nickname of a mysterious and quiet miner. The strong man came from New Orleans. As they say he had killed someone in a fight over a woman.

One day, a support timber cracked at the mine. The situation seemed hopeless until John replaced a timber by himself and stood there like a giant oak tree. He gave a mighty shove, opening a passage allowing the others to escape. Just as the miners were about to re-enter the mine with the tools necessary to rescue John, the mine collapsed. The mine has never been reopened. A marble stand was placed with the words "At the bottom of this mine lies a big, big man – Big John."

Every mornin' at the mine you could see him
He stood six-foot-six and weighed two-forty-five
Kinda broad at the and narrow at the hip
And knew ya didn't give no lip to big John
..... seemed to where John called home
He just drifted into and stayed
He didn't say much, kinda quiet and
And if you spoke at all, you just said hi to Big John
..... said he came from New Orleans
Where he got in a over a Cajun Queen
And a crashin' blow from a huge
Sent a Louisiana to the promised land, big John

Then came the day at the of the mine
When a cracked and men started cryin'
Miners were prayin' and beat fast
And thought that they'd breathed their last, 'cept John
Through the and the of this man-made hell
Walked a of a man that the miners knew well
Grabbed a saggin' timber, gave out with a groan
And like a giant oak tree he just stood there, big John

And with all of his strength he a mighty shove
Then a miner yelled out "there's a up above!"
And twenty men scrambled from a would-be
Now there's only one left down there to save, big John
With jacks and timbers they started down
Then came that rumble way down in the ground
And then and gas belched out of that mine
Everybody it was the end of the line for big John

Now, they never reopened that worthless pit
They just a marble stand in front of it
These are written on that stand
At the bottom of this mine lies a big, big man, Big John

nickname: familiar name
mysterious: strange
quiet: still
support: hold
miner: excavator, digger
hopeless: helpless
timber: log, beam, mast
giant: huge (man)
oak tree: type of tree
mighty: very big
shove: push
passage: way, tunnel
escape: run away
tool: instrument
rescue: save
collapse: breakdown
marble: granitelike stone
bottom: lowest part
kinda (slang): fairly
ya (slang): you
drift: be moved by air / water
Cajun: French speaking folks of Louisiana
huge: very big
promised land: paradise
crack: break with noise
pray: beg, wish strongly
cept: except: excluding
dust: dirt powder
sag: drop
groan: moan
strength: force
yell: cry
scramble: climb fast
grave: tomb
jacks: tool for the car
rumble: sound
belch: vomit, throw out
end of the line: the end
worthless: of no value
pit: mine, ditch

