

Shynen Down Oan Sennen

© M.J.O'Connor 17 February 1998
Silver Harvest p28

En Wal-la-roo tez my-tee fine, En Moon-ta an Ka-di-na. An
they re-mind me a tha tym When ferst I woz a stree-mer. But
win at nite me eye-leds cloaz Me myndta far-off plae-ses goaz, Tha
Su-thern Crows ez sof lyte glaws: Shy-nen down oan Sen-nen.

En Wallaroo tez mytee fine,
En Moonta an Kadina.
An they remind me a tha tym
When ferst I woz a streemer.
But win at nite me eyeleds cloaz
Me mynd ta far-off plaeses goaz,
Tha Suthern Crows ez sof lyte glaws:
Shynen down oan Sennen.

Undergrownd tez oll tha saem
Az Croftee er Selegan.
Tha doost, tha derk, tha flickeren flaem:
Et mite jus be Illogan.
Tha saem oll songs ar erd agaen,
tha tayls, tha toons, tha famblee naems.
Tha staars ear Nightengaals refaen
Wen shynen down oan Sennen.

Chrestmus es tha bravvust time,
We sup a pent a tawnee.
An Fiddler Jem well leed tha mine,
Wen us seng Trelawnee.
Weev sung un oll tha werld arown
Wer ten an copper mae be fown.
Tha staars well ear tha vuree sown
Wen shynen down oan Sennen.

At oam tha mines av cloasd ther gaets,
Er soa sayd las years lettar.
Re' Druth town ez noa graet shaeks
An Pol edn mooch better!
But en me mind I geek em stell
Forever clymen Cambern Ill,
An staars aboav tha gas lite well
be shynen down oan Sennen.

Sowth Awstraalee's ben real gud
ta cusens Jaeck an Jinee,
An menee a Cornish booy can say
Ee'z earnd a purdee penee.
But Jaakee thes an Jaakee that,
Thes cusen Jack wud ayt es at.
Ta see tha staars that even yit
ar shynen down oan Sennen.

This is a modern song but Dialect variations are already heard. Of course, Dialect would have been used by the miners who carried Cornish engineering skill all over the world.

Between 1836 and 1896 so many Cornish went to South Australia that the area near Wallaroo was known as 'Little Cornwall.' With games and wrestling, songs and dances, they preserved their Cornish life-style. There is a strong Cornish community there to this day. In the 1890s 'Fiddler Jim' Thomas led the Methodist choir in Wallaroo. 'Cousin Jack' and 'Cousin Jenny' were what the Cornish emigrants called themselves. Crofty and Illogan are mines near Camborne and Redruth respectively. Seleggan is East of Carn Brea. Of course the Southern Cross cannot really shine on Sennen, only in a Cornish exile's dreams.