

## The Engineer's Idea

The following was written by Del Jones' grandfather, Charles F. Thomas, Jr., who owned a coal mine in Colorado and supervised tunnel work on the Aqueduct And Hoover and Coulee dams.

"There are sometimes when I wonder,"  
Said the lanky engineer,  
"Why those guys up in the headings  
Have a job and labor here.  
For they sure have missed their calling  
Driving tunnel on a line."

"If it wasn't for my transit,  
And me shooting line and grade,  
They would wander through the mountains  
Here and there without my aid,  
And they'd pass the other heading  
Somewhere east or west of here."

"But with level and with transit  
And a backsight and a rod, I strive to keep the tunnel straight  
I'm a sort of human god.  
But it keeps our pencils busy  
Helping miners hold their jobs."

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