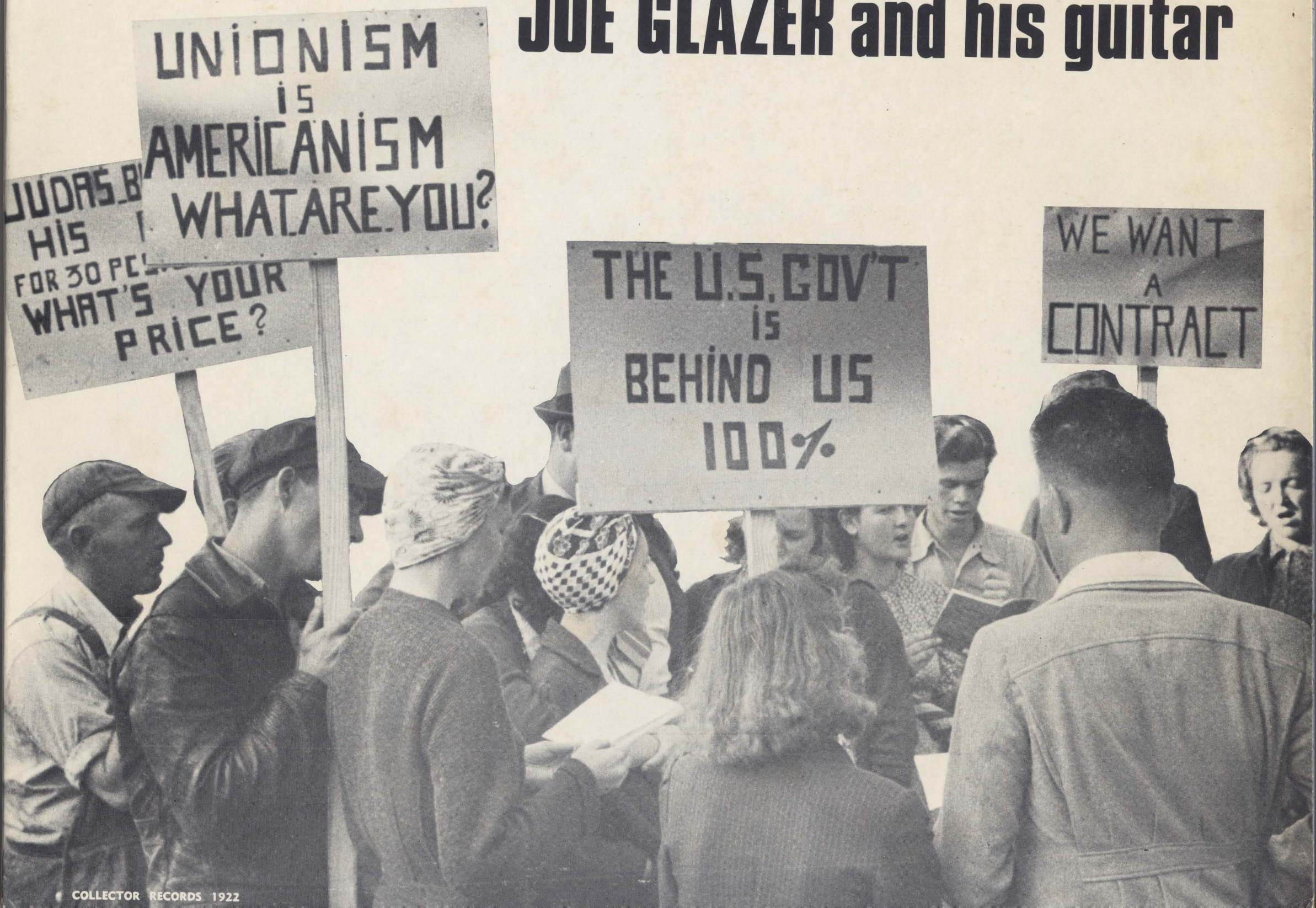


Textile Voices

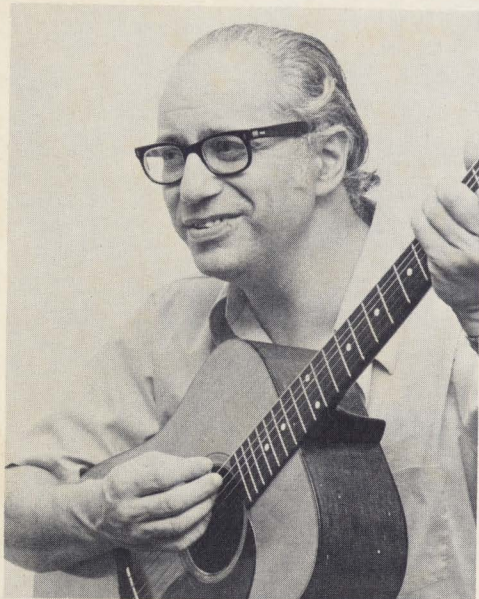
SONGS AND STORIES OF THE MILLS

JOE GLAZER and his guitar



Textile Voices

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Joe Glazer is the right man for this unique album of TEXTILE VOICES. From 1944 to 1950 he was Assistant Education Director of the Textile Workers Union of America. He sang on dozens of picket lines and at scores of union meetings. He collected many songs and composed quite a few himself including the well-known *Mill Was Made of Marble*.

On this album, Joe Glazer sings the songs of the textile workers and tells the story of how these songs came to be written. This album is no less than a musical history of the textile workers and their heroic struggles to build a union.

Joe Glazer has long been known as "Labor's Troubadour." After his years with the Textile Workers he spent more than a decade as Education Director of the United Rubber Workers. In 1961 he became a labor specialist with the United States Information Agency. His voice and guitar have been heard in almost every state in the Union and in some forty-five countries around the world where he has interpreted American life in song and story.

In addition to *The Mill Was Made of Marble*, Glazer has composed *Automation, Too Old to Work* and many other labor and protest songs. With Edith Fowke he co-authored the book, *Songs of Work and Protest*. He is the star of a documentary film, *Songs and Stories of Labor*, produced by Parker Film Associates, Inc. Public television has made two half-hour programs of his songs and commentary. He has made more than a dozen albums, including *Joe Glazer Sings Labor Songs and Garbage and Other Songs of Our Times* for COLLECTOR RECORDS.

This album, TEXTILE VOICES, was recorded in Washington, D.C. in 1970 at a reunion of former staff members of the Textile Workers Union of America who now live and work in the Washington area.

TEXTILE VOICES is the second in a projected series of COLLECTOR albums in the area of industrial folklore and folksong. The first in this series was JOE GLAZER SINGS LABOR SONGS. Forthcoming discs will include songs of the coal miners, railroaders and Wobblies.

SIDE ONE

1. LET THEM WEAR THEIR WATCHES FINE
2. FACTORY GIRL
3. BABIES IN THE MILL
4. WEAVE ROOM BLUES
5. ON THE PICKET LINE
6. WE LIVE IN THE COMPANY HOUSES
7. WE ARE CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER
8. WE ARE BUILDING A STRONG UNION

SIDE TWO

1. HARD TIMES IN THE MILL
2. COTTON MILL COLIC
3. SHINE ON ME
4. I AINT NO STRANGER NOW
5. HUMBLIN' BACK
6. GIVE ME THAT TEXTILE WORKERS UNION
7. THE MILL WAS MADE OF MARBLE
8. SOLIDARITY FOREVER

In 1791, Samuel Slater, the "Father of Cotton Manufacture in America," picked out a choice water site in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and established the first textile mill on the North American continent. Ever since — except where workers have been able to establish strong unions with good collective bargaining agreements — it's been "hard times in the mill" for the carders, spinners, weavers, dyers and finishers in the textile industry.

The huge, sprawling textile industry has a long, unhappy history of low wages, long hours, child labor, stretch-out and speed-up, company-dominated towns, chronic unemployment and instability. During the past century and a half, many strikes and revolts have flared up as textile workers struggle for a better life for themselves and their families.

In years gone by, Fall River, New Bedford, Lawrence, Passaic, Paterson, Danville, Marion, Gastonia and other great textile centers have had their struggles, their heroes and their martyrs. In recent years places like Henderson, North Carolina and Andrews and Lane, South Carolina have helped to make textile labor history.

While industries like auto, steel, rubber and others have become well organized and the workers in these industries have improved their standard of living dramatically, it is still "hard times in the mill" for many textile workers, most of them still unorganized. The twelve-hour day and child labor have been abolished, but low wages, poor fringe benefits and job insecurity persist.

In the great southern textile industry only a small percentage of the workers are organized, despite the long, strenuous and many times heart-breaking efforts of the Textile Workers Union of America. Company opposition in the South has been fierce, unyielding and often illegal. Such giant corporations as J.P. Stevens, Burlington Mills, Cannon and others with thousands of workers remain unorganized.

Textile workers have always raised their voices in song to protest against their conditions and to help build the kind of solidarity they needed to survive. These songs and stories of the mills are dedicated to the textile men and women who will one day build a powerful union to speak out for them and to win justice on the job.

Joe Glazer knows the feelings and the aspirations of the textile workers. He has marched on their picket lines and sung in their union halls. With the songs and stories on this record, he reminds us of the unquenchable spirit and courage of the textile workers and their struggle to build a union which will give them a real voice on the job.

Sol Stetin, President
Textile Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, CLC

COLLECTOR RECORDS



1604 Arbor View Rd. / Silver Spring, Md. 20902