

JOE GLAZER SINGS

Songs for WOODWORKERS



Forty Years of Progress
1937-1977

INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKERS OF AMERICA (IWA)

Songs for WOODWORKERS

Celebrating 40 years of progress (1937-1977)

Sung by JOE GLAZER

TO: OUR 1977 CONVENTION DELEGATES AND TO IWA MEMBERS EVERYWHERE:

We are proud to present this unique recording of **Songs for Woodworkers** to help celebrate IWA's fortieth anniversary. Labor's Troubadour, Joe Glazer, has put together a wonderful collection of songs and ballads that tell the story of the woodworkers' struggle to build a union which would speak up and fight for them.

Some of the songs are more than 100 years old dating from the period when large numbers of woodworkers cut the timber and floated the logs down the rivers of Maine, Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario. Others come from more recent periods when logging and sawmill operations were heavily concentrated in the Western U.S. & Canada. Two of the songs are brand new, written especially for this album. They are **The IWA Marching Song**, composed by Jim Youngdahl,

IWA General Counsel and **Talking IWA**, by Joe Glazer. The latter is reprinted here.

IWA members and their families should pay particular attention to the moving remarks of the old Wobbly poet, Ralph Chaplin, made at a 1960 convention of Western States Regional Council No. 3, in Portland. Chaplin describes the evolution of the lumber worker from a timber-beast to a human being through the courageous efforts of the trade unionists who came before us. We hope these songs will inspire IWA members to keep our union strong and democratic so we can continue to improve the wages and conditions in all branches of our industry.

Additional copies of this Fortieth Anniversary Album are available through your International Union.

Keith Johnson
International President

Fernie Viala
International First Vice President

Bud Rahberger
International Second Vice President

Robert Gerwig
International Secretary-Treasurer

TALKING IWA

By Joe Glazer

I'm gonna tell you all about the I.W.A.,
You'll find us in Canada and the U.S.A.,
In British Columbia and in Oregon,
In the East, the South, the state of Washington. . .
Working in the woods,
In the sawmills and planing mills,
In the plywood and hardboard plants.
If it's made out of wood you can bet that
IWA members had something to do with it.

We're fallers and buckers and choker-setters,
Sawyers, mechanics, IWA go-getters,
Men who run bulldozers, men who run cranes,
We run the sanders, we run the planes;
Chipperman, glue mixers, electricians,
Shingle packers, log stackers and weird sounding positions. . .
like . . . green chain off-bearer, shake makers,
rigging slinger. . . crazy sounding jobs.

But they're all important — yes, indeed,
For we process the wood lots of folks need. . .
Tables and chairs and kitchen cabinets,
Mobile homes and kennels for your pets;
Baseball bats and hockey sticks,
Telephone poles and wooden toothpicks. . .
Wooden barrels for your beer and pickles,
Skies and snow shoes — yes, and even a few wooden nickels;
Wood for pulp, wood for doors,
Wood for your homes, your furniture, your floors.
Wood is everywhere, and someplace along the way
It was touched by a member of the IWA. . .

A mighty fine union,
Men and women working under pretty fair condtions;
But it hasn't been easy. . .
Cause we've been a long time marching down
the union road.

It was forty years ago in Tacoma, Washington,
When the Woodworkers gathered to get the job done;
We're gonna build the best union you've ever seen,
Remember the date — July nineteen. . .
Nineteen thirty-seven; One Big Union in Wood;
Gonna roll and go with the CIO, Gonna roll that union on.

Lumber workers had tried many times before,
But year after year they were crushed to the floor;
Company spies and company towns,
Injunctions, vigilantes kept the lumberjack down,
Worked all winter till his bones would freeze,
Slept in the bunkhouse with the bedbugs and fleas.
Ate his slop from a greasy old plate,
Worked from early in morning till late.
Carried his blanket on his back,
The homeless, voteless lumberjack. . .

A timber-beast, A bindle-stiff,
A blanket bum. . . He sure needed a union.
The lumber worker tried as hard as he could,
Every timber town was stained with his blood:

Centralia, Everett, Aberdeen,
Louisiana, Newfoundland — the toughest battles, labor's ever seen.
He organized in Canada and the USA,
He had lots of unions before the IWA. . .

. . . but he couldn't make them stick. . .
The International Union of Shingle Workers;
The International Union of Timber Workers;
The Industrial Workers of the World;
The Lumber Workers Industrial Union. . .

Well, forty years ago we got a brand new start;
The IWA gave lumberworkers heart.
We improved the conditions, raised the pay,
Won all kinds of benefits with the IWA. . .
Health and welfare, Pensions and life insurance,
Vacations and holiday pay,
Safety and seniority protection,
Over-time and travel time,
Good eating and sleeping in the lumber camps.

Now, it's forty years later and truth be told,
We feel like twenty-one, not forty years old.
We've still got lots of hard work to do,
We've got to organize and make the job better for **you**
And **you** and **you** wherever you are.
Because the IWA isn't run by some labor czar;
It's run by you and your buddies in the woods and the shops,
It's too late to look back and too early to stop. . .

So we'll just keep moving ahead,
Building a union of Woodworkers.
We may not be the biggest,
But let me tell you — we're one of the best.
Let's keep it that way. . .
For the **next** forty years.

JOE GLAZER (left) has long been known as "Labor's Troubadour." He is shown here with Ralph Chaplin, Wobbly poet and composer of **Solidarity Forever** at a meeting of Woodworkers in Portland, Oregon in 1960. (Excerpts from Chaplin's magnificent speech are on Side Two of this album.) Glazer's voice and guitar have been heard on scores of picket lines and in a hundred union halls. He has made about 20 labor albums and is the star of a documentary film, **Songs and Stories of Labor**. He has performed in almost every state, in most provinces of Canada and in 60 countries around the world. He made this album especially for IWA's fortieth anniversary.



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Side One

1. **FIFTY THOUSAND LUMBERJACKS** was written in 1917 during a major strike of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) or Wobblies.
2. **THE FROZEN LOGGER** is a lighthearted bit of fantasy composed in folk-style by James Steven in 1929.
3. **THE SHANTYMAN'S LIFE**, a plaintive review of the harsh life in logging camps of a hundred years ago, was known in every lumbering camp from the Atlantic to the Great Lakes. ("Shantyboy" or "shantyman" was a common term for woodsmen in the East in the early days of lumbering. It comes from the lumberman's "shanty" or winter camp which was constructed of logs.)
4. **THE RAFTSMEN**, the gayest of the French-Canadian lumbermen's songs, is an almost exact counterpart of **The Lumber Camp Song** in its matter-of-fact cataloguing of life in the woods.
5. **THE LUMBERJACK'S PRAYER** was written by the Wobbly poet, T-Bone Slim, probably before World War I. It reflects historic IWW antagonism to so called "pie-in-the-sky" preachers. Joe Glazer recites this poem against a musical accompaniment.
6. **THE LUMBER CAMP SONG**, an account of the daily routine in a logging camp, is one of the oldest surviving lumbermen's songs.
7. **TALKING IWA**, a musical history of the union, was written for this album by Joe Glazer. (See lyrics to the left).

Side Two

1. **IWA MARCHING SONG**, was composed for this album by IWA General Counsel, Jim Youngdahl.
2. **GRAND HOTEL** is a humorous loggers' song from Vancouver. (The **Cassiar**, mentioned in the song, was a west coast steamship which served logging camps.)
3. **THE JAM ON GERRY'S ROCKS**, the most popular of all shanty-boy ballads, is sung in traditional unaccompanied style by Joe Glazer.
4. **THE JONES BOYS**, a little ditty about a sawmill, is one of the most popular songs in New Brunswick.
5. **THE LUMBERMAN'S ALPHABET** (also called **The Shantyboy's Alphabet**) was known to almost every woodsman. (The "iron" referred to in the third stanza was used to place the owner's mark on his logs so they would be identified if they became mixed with logs from other camps during the river drive. The "moss" of stanza four was used to fill in the cracks between the logs of the shanties.)
6. **RALPH CHAPLIN SPEAKS** is an excerpt from a speech by the old Wobbly poet to an IWA convention in 1960.
7. **SOLIDARITY FOREVER**, written by Chaplin in 1915, is the best known labor song in the U.S. and Canada.

SONG NOTES: Notes for six of these songs have been excerpted from the books of the distinguished Canadian folklorist, Edith Fowke. (Side one — 3,4,6; side two — 3,4,5.) Mrs. Fowke, author of **Folk Songs of Canada**, **Lumbering Songs from the Northern Woods** and many other books has been most gracious in permitting use of this material and in advising on the selection of songs. She points out that many of these "shantyboy" or lumberman's songs were sung in both the United States and Canada.

THE PERFORMERS: Mike Aldridge, dobro; Alan Bennett, guitar; Ben Eldridge, banjo; Tom Gray, bass; Alan Oresky, fiddle. Back-up voices are Harold Closter, Daniel Glazer, Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino. Special thanks for production assistance to Alan Bennett, Harold Closter, Daniel Glazer, Archie Green, Joe Hickerson, Roy Ockert and Jim Youngdahl. BILL McELROY was the engineer.

STEREO

Jacket Design by DOROTHY FALL



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