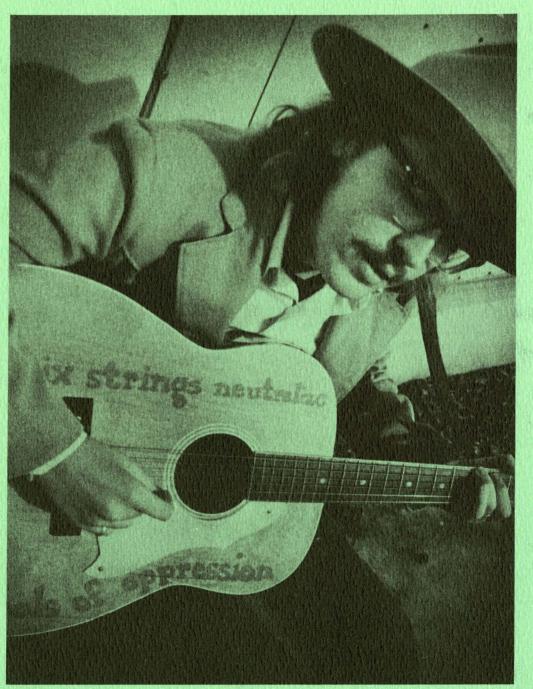
# GARY GREEN



# These Six Strings Neutralize The Tools Of Oppression

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FH 5351

GARY GREEN these six strings neutralize the tools of oppression

### SIDE ONE

1.	THERE AIN'T NO EASY WAY
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all songs written and sung by GARY GREEN

photos and art by CINDY GREEN

descriptive notes are inside pocket

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FOLKWAYS RECORDS FH 5351

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#### INTRODUCTION

<u>PLATO</u> (2200 years ago in "The Republic"): Any musical innovation is full of danger to the whole state, and ought be prohibited...(it) imperceptively penetrates into manners and customs; whence issuing with greater force, it invades contracts between man and man and ... goes on to laws and constitutions, in utter recklesness, ending at last ... by overthrow of all rights, private as well as public." QUEEN MARY I: "(There shall be no) books, ballads, rhymes, and interludes...without

royal authorization.

<u>Max Weber</u> (german sociologist) said that people act on social issues because of their state of awareness of the issues. <u>Karl Marx</u> called this "state of awareness" <u>class consciousness</u>. V.I. Lenin said that consciousness determines being, and his vanguard used folkish songs, proverbs, fairy tales and adages for "consciousness raising"...and eventually brought about the October Revolution. Woody Guthrie is credited for saying that "one good song is worth 10,000 of your best speeches and a couple of armies."

I've been telling people that a rambling folksinger that masters his or her tools can drop a state, city, a community, an organization or and individual just as fast as one dust-tramp could draw on another 100 years ago. AND, that same guitar-slinger can raise an army and build a nation as fast as English prisoners settled Georgia.

Around the body of my guitar in big blue letters is painted, "THESE SIX STRINGS NEUTRALIZE THE TOOLS OF OPPRESSION."

The idea for the paint-job grew from a little sign that Woody Guthrie taped to his guitar; "This Machine Kills Facists."

I figured that there were probably more oppressed people than fascists running around, so I decided to neutralize a few tools.

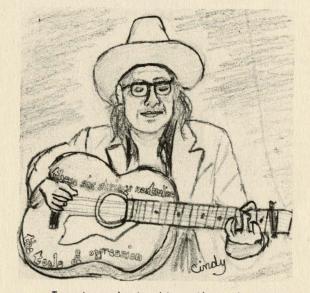
Only problem is that I've found so much oppression floating around that I'm seriously considering taking up the 12-string guitar just to get six more tool-neutralizers.

This is the fifth time I have parked myself in front of my typewriter and tried to spit out an introduction to a collection of my songs. This is the first time I've ever really believed that anyone outside a small group of friends would be reading it. Somehow, this one is the hardest to write.

They told me that I have to have a biographical (or autobiographical) note or two here:

This is an album of 13 of my 80 or so songs. I've been writing songs since about 1969 (when I was just starting high school). Actually, I've been making-up songs since I was 6 or 7 years old ... but I didn't start writing songs until I was 15.

I played a little bit on the piano (learned from my mother -- the music teacher) and was able to team up with a guitar-pickin' schoolmate in Nashville (where we lived). I bribed him with a 45 rpm record of some long-forgotten rock group and a SATURDAY EVENING POST article about another rock group.



In return, he taught me three chords and let me borrow a \$13 Stella guitar (The strings were so far from the neck that you could crawl under them and set up camp if you wanted to).

It was 1971 before I decided to put all my songs in a book and write a "what and why" introduction for it. We were living in Gastonia, North Carolina (where my parents still live).

The second time I sat down to write an introduction was right after I started college at the University of Tennessee. I had just finished wandering around the countryside in the South and in part of Europe, and I was tryin' to figure out what life is all about.

continued on next page

I wrote a third introduction when I got locked into an 18-hour-a-day and began letting "making a living" get in the way of "living" (After all, it is the nature of the system that we all do that). A fourth introduction came after a couple of years of hacking brought me a sore back and a first-hand distaste for a system that puts social <u>need</u> second to private profit.

And now I'm up to introduction number five for this nifty little book that always goes with a <u>FOIKWAYS</u> record.

Over the past few years I've played guitar, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, piano, organ and bass in rock groups, country bands, folk duos, gospel groups and a couple of plays.

I worked for a year as a newspaper reporter on a police beat riding around with blue lights and guns and murder and rape and shoot-outs and other nasty things like that. I managed an "x"-rated drive-in theatre for a while ... was hired as a deputy sheriff in Knox County, Tennessee ... published an "underground" newspaper...taught a college course called "Folk Music and the American Left" ... wrote a weekly newspaper column ... taught private and classroom guitar lessons ... sold cameras, records and housewares in a department store ... unloaded trucks and opened boxes in a shipping and receiving department ... delevered four newspaper routes while going to college (at the University of Tennessee)... been on TV, radio and organized rallies for AIM, United Farm Workers, Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty, Peoples' Coalition for Peace and Justice, Peace Action Coalition, Campaign to Impeach Nixon, PBC, and a handful of other outfits .... was a photographer at a

couple of hardware trade shows...was a handler's aide for the American Kennel Club...and had a few other assorted jobs here and there.

I've lived in a trailer, a university-owned apartment high-rise, an inner-city slum, a couple of normal apartments, the woods, a tent in a backyard of some kind-souled hippies, a commune house, the street, the back seat of a car, a few dozen hotels and motels and a few assorted middle-class houses occupied by my parents and two brothers.

I've traveled in four countries; every state east of the Mississippi except Maine; and almost every little town, city, township and community in Tennessee, Virginia, East Kentucky, North Carolina. South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama (I started traveling when I was born--my father is a salesman...and used to work for the railroad).

I was born on the day before Ground Hog Day in 1954 in a place called Hamlet, North Carolina (Since I was born at a very early age, I don't remember a lot of the details). By the time I was 15, I had lived in 18 different houses. I went to so many different grammer schools that I can't count them, but only two high schools and one college (I dropped out of the college). I got married the day I graduated from high school.



I've traveled by plane, train, steamship, heliocopter, bus, car and thumb (not to mention a lot of walking).

I've been drunk and stoned and tripped-out and high and low and up and down. And I met a man that drank after-shave lotion three-times-a-day.

I've been to church and in jail and I've been a Taoist and a Christian and an atheist.

I met a famous nazi in hiding and I helped a famous commie out of hiding.

1've marched and sung songs with the SCIC, SNCC, NAACP, mine workers, farm workers, hospital workers, garbage workers and a few people that never have and never will work.

I got cold in Greenwich Village (from the people and the weather) and I got hot in Atlanta on Peachtree Street. I got hungry in Southampton and I went to sleep in Memphis.

I gave a guy a gun to rob a gas station and I kicked in the door for a cop and helped him search on his biggest heroin raid.

I've been spied on, phone tapped, cussed at, photographed and followed by so many suited guys that if they had paid me half of what they were making I would have saved them all the trouble and told them what I was doing. And so help me, every word of it is true.

I've seen it...and as much as I've seen...I still ain't seen a thing. And I've been there and I ain't been nowhere. I've watched people die but I don't know death. I watched life begin, but I don't know birth.

And, that's what my songs are all about. And, that's why I'm sitting here writing introduction number five for a collection of 13 of my songs.

#### SIDE I, Band 1: THERE AIN'T NO EASY WAY

WORDS & MUSIC

TO ALL SONGS

BY GARY GREEN

c)1977 by author

I rolled all my clothes into the pack on my back. And I stood with my thumb on the road for three days. And I breathed enough monoxide to start a bus of my own. And every word I spoke began with, "I'll be damned."

New York City streets turn to wood then cobblestone And the acid from the pits of hell has eaten all along Where the poet stood on the corner 15 years ago Sprinkling prophetic prayers to a world tryin' to grow.

New York City ain't no place to be Searchin' for the Gods you'll never see. chorus: Lookin' for a dream in the devil's hide-a-way And never knowin' there ain't no easy way.

The junkie on the comer is stairin' up at me Beggin' me to take him for a ride. There's a sidewalk-speaker blairin' some words I don't wanna hear And across the street blows yesterday's magazine.

Where the sidewalk turned grey with age the day it was poured And sisters in the night lay their bodies on the street There's a wide-eyed cowboy wandering, tryin' to sing his songs ... And a spectre of tommorow hums along:

chomis

The faces of the crucified meets the faces of the kings But neither stops to speak as they walk by. And the cowboy's words are heard only by his boots and they echo, "There ain't no easy way."

#### Side I, Band 2:

## The Murder Ella May Wiggins "I'll run for you no more."

Come with me to Loray Mill In Gastonia, North Carolina To a woman and her story That history forgot to tell. Ella May Wiggins lived alone With her nine little children --Each one she loved oh so well! She had to work graveyard shift to tend them in the day --Hard work and little pay! chorus

Then four of her babies Come down with whooping cough And they needed their mother in the nights. She asked the supervisor To let her work the day. He said "NO" So she left her job at Loray.

Then her four babies died .... Though Ella May had tried; What's her power against the super at Loray? chorus

Now Ella May told and sung her sad story. She said, "We'll always be slaves unless we organize." Gaston County needs a union of the workers ... Then our voices they would recognize!

chorus: A hobo must ramble; a cowboy must ride Every train has tracks upon which it must glide While some will choose the mountain crest, Some will choose the shore; But some will jump the track and say.



Loray Mill (now owned by FIRESTONE, INC.) in Gastonia, NC is still unionless today --50 years after the murder of Ella May Wiggins.

Soon all Gaston workers were talkin' union ... And old Loray had a strike upon its hands. Ella May led every union meetin! singin' her songs to clappin' hands. The newspaper and the big mill bosses said, "This is getting out of hand." So on the fourteenth day of September, They put a bullet through Ella May's brain. chorus

SIDE 1, Band 3: <u>DOWN THE</u> ROAD AND OVER THE HILL

I'm gonna head for Tennessee one more time. I'm gonna leave a cloud of dust at the North Carolina Line. Said "goodbye" to the cotton mill... This is one linthead that won't be still, till I'm down the road and over the hill.

I'm tired of doffin' and I'm tired of spinnin', And I'm tired of weavin' Burlington's linen. Wanna farm the land and watch things grow... don't wanna think of that foreman no more, till I'm down the road and over the hill.

- I was born hard workin' and I'm bound to die the same.
- But I don't like livin' where a time card has become my name.
- I can't see workin' to make some rich man more... So he can up the price and make the workin' man poorer.
- So I'll go down the road and over the hill.

#### SIDE I, Band 4: OVEN FORK MINE DISASTER--1976

It started on Tuesday morning when 108 men went down, But it began years ago when men first mined in the ground. And their wives and their children Just went along their way not knowing 15 men would die that very day.

Oven Fork, Kentucky was an average miner's town Til 1:15 that afterhoon when an explosion brought that mine down. The shudder of the earth and the belch from the ground... and only 93 men scrambled from that hole.

Then 8 rescue teams worked in a six-foot passageway Digging for 15 men 'Neath coal, earth and clay. And the wives and the children came down to the mine But 15 men had already laid down their lives.

Two days later 13 inspectors climbed down To test the gas and smoke in that Black Mountain mine. Two men called for help as a second explosion roared And 11 more men died in that mine.

"Let's close this mine for safety," One inspecter said; "Let it be a grave for the 26 now dead." But he failed to check the pages of his files which read: "THIS MINE HAS BKEN CITED 735 TIMES !" SIDE I, Band 5: Little Mark Dupree

Little Mark Dupree was ruthless for a 14-year old boy. With a 12-inch knife tucked in his belt he was his mama's pride and joy. She taught him how to lie and hate, claiming it was all God's will. But the biggest lesson that he learned was when she taught him how to kill. Little Mark's father was a preacher So he was a preacher's son. But his mother was the one who taught him to use a gun. She told him white is right ... and black is the color of the devil's skin; And with a gun and a knife in your hand is how to greet a black friend. Little Mark was deliverin' papers one windy March day ---When a little black boy--just 11 years old -stumbled in his way. As he drew the knife from his belt, his mother's lessons ran through this head: "The only black man that is good is a nigger that is dead." From across the street another black boy charged Mark's way. With his hand rolled up in a towel he took the knife away.

and he'd bother them no more. But when they refused he went home to his mother to declair a private war. Mark's mother called the police to see if BLACK was against the law. But when 4 days passed she shot the first black man she saw. Harry Dickens was 21--didn't know the black kids or the preacher's son. But because black was the color of his skin he mest the blast from a gun. Now the criminal that went free Is not the mother or the preacher's son... Not the church that posted her bond Nor the man who made the gun. The criminals who were not indicted And still go along their way... Are the ones who teach us to hate each other So we never look their way.

Mark offered to buy it back ...

NOTE: Sandra Dupree (Mark's mother) was acquitted in Henderson, NC in the fall of 1976. Harry Dickens, however, was not acquitted from death. And "little" Mark still totes his knife.

"Mining is business," so the owners always claim, "with certain risks and dangers," every owner says the same. To them the price of a ton of coal must outweigh the life of a man; cause 26 men just laid down their lives. 4 chorus: CIA, CIA: I know you're everywhere! CIA, CIA: I found your microphone in my underware!! With a tap on my phone and a bug in my car... Who in the hell do you think you are? That's what you get when you meet up with the CIA.

Wanna throw a little coup? Seem like the thing to do? Leave it to the CIA! What do we care if there's democracy there? That's why we got the CIA. Wanna pay a bribe? Burn a town? Turn a political system upside down? That's what you get when you team up with the CIA ! chorus Political assassination; if that's your bag ... For the CIA, lord, that's no drag. Float counterfeit bills in foreign currency... Spy on Fidel, the FBI and ME! Do it for the corporations that make you strong ... Do it for the presidents waitin' back home. That's what you get when you team up with the CIA!

SIDE II, Band 1: THE COWBOY

The roar of the six-gun became the hum of six strings. Travel by horse turned to travel by thumb. Silver spurs and shining saddles Were buried in another time. And the rattle and the hum of the all-night stage home Became the screech of a 5:00 commuter train. And the last of the big-city cowboys Sings the last of the cold-city songs... And then he wonders why he chose not to cry; And he stumbles but keeps moving on. The warmth of the campfire and nights under the stars Became the hiss of a radiator and a cold hard-wood floor. Trail-dust that once covered his boots Is now dust from another terrain. But the bar is still open .... And the ladies keep coming ... And trouble still rides with his name.

SIDE II, Band 2: "You're Just as Guilty"

Button up your coat and knot your tie... Wash you're dishes while the whole world dies. (tacet) You're just as guilty as the man with the man with the gun. Don't get involved, it'll bring you down... Just be yourself and let the world go 'round. (tacet)

You're just as guilty as the man with the gun. Now the man with the gun he don't know what to do... Somebody had to send his order through.

He's just as guilty as the man with the gun. Now the man that gave the orders he had to have a plan It came from senators and congressmen all across the land. They're just as guilty as the man with the gun. Senators and congressmen to get their votes Have to have the backin' of the corporate folks... They're just as guilty as the man with the gun. Corporates got to protect what they own... Get the senators to send troops from way back home... They're just as guilty as the man with the gun. Corporates depend on us for their wealth...

So just keep quiet about it and be true to thyself. You're just as guilty as the man with the gun. SIDE II, Band 3: I WORE HIS GUN

When I was but a boy, My mama said, "come son," "now that your father's dead and gone we need a man and a gun". So at my ma's insistance and at my own dismay, I tied on the six-gun my ma had put away. I wore his gun. I wore his gun. Now everywhere I'd ramble that gun would be tacked to my side And everywhere I'd roam I'd try to forget how my pa had died; But it's hard to forget the things a man has done ... Especially when I'm sittin' here wearing his gun. I wore his gun. I wore his gun. Now every town I'd come to people knew my name. And every town I'd come to they knew my father's fame. So I'd listen to their stories of guns that spit fire and lead. And I'd listen to their stories of men who now lay dead. I wore his gun. I wore his gun. My father laid a lot of men in prison; He laid a lot more in their grave. But he never took a man's life unless another life was to be saved. He ran into the saloon when he heard the woman's cry ... And with that decoy and a bullet in the back they made my father die. And I wore his gun ... I wore his gun. I wore his gun... I wore his gun. Now I stand at the saloon door the bartender to see. All I do is mention my name and and every eye is on me ... Longer than he gave my father, I give him to the count of one. I put a bullet through his head and I hung up that cursed gun! I wore his gun... I wore his gun I wore his gun... I wore his gun!



#### SIDE II, Band 4: THE BALLAD OF BROADSIDE

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This is probably the most important song on this album because it is a tribut to two of the most important (and most overlooked) people in the history of American Music. Without Sis Cunningham and Gordon Friesen and their BROADSIDE MAGAZINE, we wouldn't know the names of Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Tom Paxton, Janis Ian and a few dozen others. But, beyond that, Sis and Gordon have stood without a flinch against the warriors of commercial prostitution. Penniless, but with their souls unstained, they have fought (sometimes seemingly alone) the creating of markets for selling songs and the whole "business" of music. More than that, they've spent 50 years fighting a system that regards private profit higher than social need. It is well worth the \$30 for anyone to order their complete 16-year set of back issues from 215 W. 98th St. 4-D. New York 10025

> Oh they never gave an inch No they never gave an inch And it's time their story it was told! No they never budged an inch They said they would not flinch... And all they have to show for it is their soul!

Well by 1961 tin-pan-alley had almost won Control of everything we think do and say. The songs that we would cheer Were the ones they meant for us to hear And buy their chosen records with our hard-earned dough!

The lyrics were so neat and the music kept its beat As we tuned it in over top <u>10</u> radio. And then OH! WHAT FUN as they proclaim <u>number one</u>. And their pockets fill up with our dough!

#### Then in 1962

Sis and Gordon saw what they had to do... A thing that the tin-pans had never seen before: To let the natural trend be carried by the wind And to keep the buyers and the sellers from our door!

> Oh they never gave an inch No they never gave an inch And it's time that there story was told! They never budged an inch They said they would not flinch... And all they have to show for it is their soul!

#### So BROADSIDE was born

And to the capitalists let it warn That music is made by people and to people it is free! And BROADSIDE lives today, though it has come a long way And Sis and Gordon; how can we thank you but with a song?

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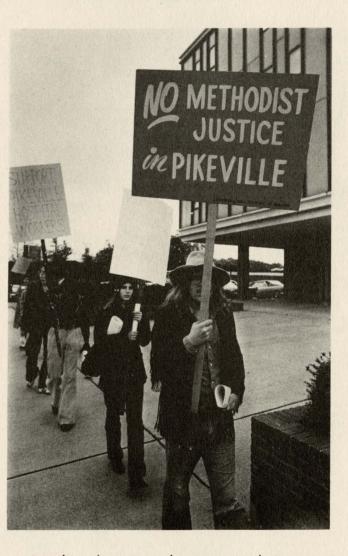
, Band 5: AMERICA'S CHILD SIDE II,

I was born a lonely singer walkin' through a wooded field. I had shed ten-thousand tears before I understood nature's will; but all along the banks of life I waited for a wishful sign to carry me away to a land where the people never spoke of time. America's child where are you wandering? Where will you go?

And when tommorow's sun comes up, Then will you know?

Still a man's not called a man until he's walked 2100 miles; and a woman's not called a woman till she has a man and a child. So the "children" pass in masses searchin' for a place to hide; While the eyes of a lonely singer scan the road, waiting for a ride.

America's child where are you wandering? Where will you go? When tormorow's sun comes up, Then will you know? All the grains of time may fly over the skies before you learn the secrets buried in men's eyes.



Gary (front) and Cindy (second in line) Green on the picket line for Pikeville, Kentucky workers at a Methodist hospital strike.

#### SIDE II, Band 6: DEAR MISTER KELLEY AT THE FBI

Dear Mister Kelley at the FBI, Listen to my song and the words I cry; I heard the man say it on my TV: You've been takin' notes on Americans like me.

spoken: Well at the FBI up in Washington
They're playin' little games--havin' lots of fun.
They send a little man to hide in your toilet bowl
Then he jots down notes on the tissue roll.

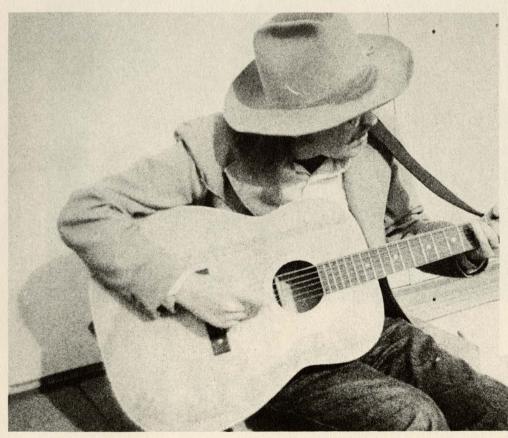
Hey Mister Kelley, you better hear what I say, I want you to send all my tissue-notes right away. Now the law says I got a right to see All the nasty little notes you been takin' on me.

spoken: Poor Mr. Kelley didn't know what to do
When they passed the Information Act in '72.
So he told 'em he was too busy to comply right away,
But he might get around to it early next may.

Hey Mister Kelley--you're plan don't hold water for me... It's those secret little notes I wanna see. Well you better get 'em movin' and comin' soon Or I'll be in court singin' this tune.

spoken: Well, Mister Kelley finally decided what to do: He took his pen and marked a couple of words through. Then he marked some more, pleased with his deed, Til "A", "AN" and "THE" were the only words you could read.

Dear Mister Kelley at the FBI Listen to my song and the words I cry. I heard the man say it on my TV: You've been takin' notes on Americans like me.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION VASILINGTON, D.C. 26235

July 6, 1976

Mr. Gary Michael Green Post Office Box 16190 Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Dear Mr. Green:

Your inquiry concerning the status of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts request was received on June 22, 1976.

As I mentioned in my letter to you dated March 19, 1976, we have a considerable backlog of requests similar to yours.

Your original request was received March 5, 1976. We are now beginning to work on requests received during October, 1975. Your request, of course, is being held in chronological order according to its date of receipt and will be assigned for processing in turn. While it is impossible to furnish you a precise date at this time as to when processing on your particular request will be completed, I do want you to know that a substantial allocation of manpower and finances has been made in an effort to reduce the backlog now existing.

I regret the delay encountered in complying with your request for records and again solicit your patience and understanding.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley Director

SIDE II, Band 7:

THE HAMMER

Well a worker made the hammer After a bossman made the nail told the worker to drive it; he'd dock him if he'd fail.

The bossman invented wages. The worker invented sweat. Mix 'em both together... wonder which the worker'll get?

Then the bossman invented promises to go along with the sweat. Then he gave the worker a dollar... wonder what that'll get?

The workin' man is hungry. The bossman is gettin' fat. While the workin' man's back is achin' The bossman feeds his cat.

The workin' man builds the product to make the bossman's wealth. The bossman's private profit comes before the workers' health.

Together the workers made it. The bossman takes it away. The worker has to buy it... give him back his pay.

Well a worker invented the hammer after a bossman made the nail. A worker invented the union after a bossman invented hell. For helping me get these songs to you, I owe an awful lot of thanks. Special thanks to Sis and Gordon at BROADSIDE in New York (see SIDE II, Band  $\downarrow$ )...they were the first to take me seriously and then they gave a <u>lot</u> of guidance. Thanks to Pete Seeger, who always seems to say the right things answering letters that always come at the right time.

Thanks to Moses Asch, who is spending all this money that it takes for you to hear this record and read these words, for caring about folksingers and what they have to say.

And I guess I owe lots of thanks to the people I watched talk, breath, love, live, eat, cry, die, work, play, run, skip, laugh, see, listen, hurt, strain, smile, study, question, answer and <u>do</u> life. I owe it to the drunk I met who died in the

I owe it to the drunk I met who died in the sewer a few hours later because the poison in the bottle finally ate through the wrong place. I owewit to the starved kid running around a backyard full of clothesline and crabgrass in a "sweeping yard". I owe it to my comrades who march in the streets and my brothers and sisters who took up the gun.

I owe them all for bleeding and for showing me what they were doing. I owe you.

That's what these songs are really all about... just words that are painted from a guitar that brushes them onto a canvass that is only a mirror.

So run through the songs now and see if you don't want to go paint one yourself... that's what they all really are about: GO DO IT YOURSELF!

> Gary Green January 1, 1977

PHOTOS and ART by CINDY GREEN



Gary and Ronny Green at anti-big business rally in Washington. July 4, 1976.

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LITHO IN U.S.A.