

# THE SOUNDS OF THE JUNK YARD

RECORDED BY MICHAEL SIEGEL

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FX 6143

THE SOUNDS OF THE JUNK YARD

acetylene torch, cutting apart an automobile engine  
loading pick-up truck by hand with 400 lb. bales of aluminum scrap. Hear them slide along the truck, removing two bales at a time from truck with fork-lift, inside warehouse.  
loading empty fiber drums on pick-up truck. (Only 15 lbs. each, but noisier than above because of metal rims and resonance.) aluminum clips being dumped from dump truck.  
paper baler.  
hand truck brings in cartons  
tossing cartons into baler  
breaking down large empty cartons  
sound of baler starting, upstairs.  
Note crunch of cartons crushing, note creak of cartons after baler pressure stops  
bringing up baler to load in more baler again, now downstairs at motor opening doors, front and back  
putting stop on door  
sliding wires through, to tie bale together  
taking up baler press  
dumping out 1700 lb. bale onto hand truck  
rolling away hand truck  
magnetic crane  
dumping a load  
squealing as it turns  
steel saw cutting channel iron in two pieces  
alligator shear  
acetylene torch cuts through wires holding metal sheets together  
one of the wires pops  
shear starts. Clicks are cuts, crashes  
tossing cut sheets into piles of cut scrap  
starts cutting heavy pipe.  
heavier pipe  
heavy channel iron  
burning out an old car  
windows crack out  
metal crackling  
fresh draft  
sizzles  
baling aluminum chips in metal baler  
metal drums of chips dropped onto metal stand next to baler. (This continues all through this.)  
first of many hisses as chips are poured into baler  
baler started. Drums, baler and hisses repeat  
whistle as baler is completed baling  
bale ejected  
dump truck unloading sheet metal scrap  
lifting up dump carriage  
more truck to start sheets sliding out  
removing what is left by hand  
magnetic crane loading baler with metal sheets  
drop into baler  
pick up more sheets  
start baling. Note metal squeals under pressure.  
hand loading metal baler with automobile doors, fenders, steel drums, etc., and baling.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL SIEGEL

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hand loading metal piles with  
automobile doors, fenders, steel  
frames, etc., and pulling

12:05-14:40

steel saw cutting channel iron in  
two pieces  
slipgate shear  
19:41  
19:58-20:40  
20:41-22:52

## THE SOUNDS OF THE JUNK YARD

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There are many strange sounds in junk yards, depending on the specialization of the yard, the equipment, and the uses to which the equipment may be put. Here, then, (with the time in minutes and seconds) are some of the "Sounds of the Junk Yard":

0 - 1:16	acetylene torch, cutting apart an automobile engine.	20:49	acetylene torch cuts through wires holding metal sheets together.
		22:05	one of the wires pops.
1:25-3:20	loading pick-up truck by hand with 400 lb. bales of aluminum scrap. Hear them slide along the truck.	22:30	shear starts. Clinks are cuts, crashes tossing cut sheets into piles of cut scrap.
		25:01	starts cutting heavy pipe.
3:32-5:58	removing two bales at a time from truck with fork-lift, inside warehouse.	25:35	heavier pipe.
		26:20	heavy channel iron.
6:05-6:55	loading empty fiber drums on a pick-up truck. (Only 15 lbs. each, but noisier than above because of metal rims and resonance.)	26:52-30:46	burning out an old car.
		26:55	windows crack out.
		27:30	metal crackling.
		27:54	fresh draft.
		29:25	sizzles.
7:02-8:43	aluminum clips being dumped from dump truck.	30:53-37:05	baling aluminum chips in metal baler.
8:50-18:26	paper baler.	31:15	metal drums of chips dropped onto metal stand next to baler.
8:50	hand truck brings in cartons.		(This continues all through this.)
9:10	tossing cartons into baler	31:50	first of many hisses as clips are poured into baler.
9:35	breaking down large empty cartons		baler started. Drums, baler and hisses repeat.
11:15	sound of baler starting, upstairs. Note: crunch of cartons crushing.	32:50	whistle as baler is completed baling.
12:11	note creak of cartons after baler pressure stops.	36:50	bale ejected.
		37:00	
13:23	bringing up baler to load in more.	37:12-39:05	dump truck unloading sheet metal scrap.
13:43	baler again, now downstairs at motor.		lifting up dump carriage.
14:58	opening doors, front and back.	37:12	move truck to start sheets
15:20	putting stop on door.	37:50	sliding out.
15:55	sliding wires through, to tie bale together.	38:40	removing what is left by hand.
16:54	taking up baler press.		
17:52	dumping out 1700 lb. bale onto hand truck.	39:12-41:56	magnetic crane loading baler with metal sheets
18:05	rolling away hand truck.	39:25	drop into baler.
		39:35	pick up more sheets.
18:34-19:51	magnetic crane.	40:52	start baling. Note metal squeals under pressure.
19:07	dumping a load.		
19:35	squealing as it turns.		
19:58-20:40	steel saw cutting channel iron in two pieces.	42:05-44:40	hand loading metal baler with automobile doors, fenders, steel drums, etc., and baling.
20:49-26:43	alligator shear.		

### THE SOUNDS OF THE JUNK YARD

Some junk yard equipment is common to all of them, some is more specialized. The oxygen-acetylene torch, for example, is found in almost all yards, and is used to separate welds or cut apart all kinds of metals from hot water boilers to railroad cars. The paper baler squeezes down papers, rags or cartons, under great pressure, from thicknesses of ten feet down to five. This is done in just one dimension, three by six by ten foot bales ending up three by six by five, and running up to 1,700 pounds each. The metal baler squeezes down metals in all directions, with automobile doors, fenders, hoods, drums, boilers, ending up in compact two by one and a half foot 400 to 900 pound bales. The alligator shear, a combination of hard steel blade and oversize gears, slices up sheet metal scrap, auto bumpers, and channel iron, for instance, into sizes that can be fed directly into foundry furnaces. The steel saw, on the other hand, is a high-speed, sandpaper-like, hard abrasive circular blade that cuts cleanly through pipe and channel iron.

All these sounds were recorded in yards in Warren, Pennsylvania.

