

Folkways Records FC 7064 10"

**Old
Timey Songs
for
Children**



**Played
and Sung
by the
New Lost City
Ramblers:
Mike Seeger,
John Cohen,
Tom Paley**

M
1630.18
N532
O44
1959

MUSIC LP

FOLKWAYS FC 7064

***Old
Timey Songs
for
Children***

Old Bell Cow
Hopalong Peter
Beware, Oh Take Care
Soldier, Soldier
Will You Marry Me
Eyes Are Blue
Charley He's A Good
Ol' Man
Adam in the Garden
Chewing Gum
Cotton Eye Joe
Jennie Jenkins
Barbara Allen
Hop High Ladies
Rabbit Chase
Common Bill
Johnny Get Your Gun

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTES
ARE INSIDE POCKET

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***FOLKWAYS RECORDS
FC 7064***

FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album No. FC 7064

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Old Timey Songs for Children

played and sung by



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the new lost city ramblers

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MUSIC LP

OLD TIMEY SONGS FOR CHILDREN

sung by

The New Lost City Ramblers

(Mike Seeger, Tom Paley, John Cohen)

THIS RECORD HAS

some songs and sounds that would be fine to grow
up with
some songs where you don't understand everything
in them
some songs about things which are still to be done --
about girls and getting married
some songs which are very old and full of love and
mystery -- and which have been held in
love and mystery by people for hundreds
of years
some songs which remind you that in this world of
inhuman machines there is still a place
for cows who eat hats and crows that
go "caw"
some songs with common sense and common nonsense
some songs which tell you how other people felt
about things
songs where you can sing with the record,
songs you can dance to
songs you can sing to yourself when no one is listening
songs where you can say "that one sounds like me --
and that one like you"
songs to listen to
songs you can sing to others

some of these songs I heard when I was a kid -- and
some of them I wish I had heard then.

John Cohen

The songs on this record are not just children's
songs, but they are songs that children will enjoy.
Who says that children can't love and understand
some adult things anyway? Why should we aim our
songs at a very low level? There is something in
these songs for adults, too -- at least for those
who haven't become so pseudo-sophisticated that
they can't enjoy things which are simple and
direct anymore.

You will not find slick commercial arrangements
on this record -- you can hear that kind of pap on
the juke box and the pot-luck juke box called
radio any day -- we prefer to leave the songs with

their original vigor and feeling. It's a lot more
fun to perform music that hasn't been emasculated
and there's more there for the listener, too.

Tom Paley

These songs were part of the lives of people of the
southern mountains, perhaps more than popular and
school-taught songs are of city people. In the
country there were fewer types of amusements, and
home made recreation, especially music, played a
large part in the raising of a child in the country.
The songs with which these children grew up did
include some which we might consider kids' songs,
such as nonsense songs, animal songs, and the like,
but consisted mostly of the songs which grown-ups
liked and sang for their own enjoyment.

In my case, coming from trained musician parents
who were interested in world folk music, I heard
little else in my childhood besides several
hundred Library of Congress field recordings of
southern folk music, the singing of these songs
by my parents (who were eager for me to pick them
up) and their mostly classical piano playing.

The first songs I can remember having sung (at
about age 5) are "When de Whale Gets Strike,"
Barbara Allen, and "Paper of Pins" and I have
some Library of Congress discs of those not too
memorable performances. My father and mother also
sang such old songs as "Froggie Went A-courting",
"Lady of Carlisle" and "Going Back to Georgia",
which they learned from the Library of Congress
field recordings. My favorite record was "Fiddler's
Convention in Georgia" by Gil Tanner and his
Skillet Lickers, a fiddle and guitar band from
the southern hills that acted out on record a real
contest.

In the early 1950's I began listening more to
commercial records of folk music made in the last
30 years and trying to play and sing the old tunes
on them, as well as playing with several country
"bluegrass" bands in Baltimore, until the New Lost
City Ramblers fell together in mid - 1958.

This has been, in short, my musical background. I
hope that you enjoy this record and also that it
might be a start (or a continuation), making our
music part of your future musical background.

Mike Seeger

SIDE I, Band 1: OLD BELL COW

(Source: Dixie Crackers)

Went down to the cornfield to pick a mess of beans
Along come the bell cow a-pecking at the greens

CHORUS:

Oh the bell cow catch her by the tail
Oh the bell cow milk her in the pail
Oh the bell cow catch her by the tail
Oh the bell cow milk her in the pail

Some of these days when I learn how
I'm gonna milk that old bell cow

(CHORUS)

The milk ain't whipped and the butter ain't fat
The darned old cow ate my best hat

(CHORUS)

The old bell cow I milked her in a gourd
I sold my milk and bought me a Ford

(CHORUS)

Way down yonder in Arkansas
The bell cow whipped her mammy in law

(CHORUS)

Some of these days when I learn how
I'm gonna milk that old bell cow

(CHORUS)

mike-fiddle & lead voice
tom-guitar & tenor voice
john-12-string guitar

SIDE I, Band 2: HOPALONG PETER

(Source: Fisher Hendley and his Aristocratic pigs)

Old Uncle Peter he got tight
Started up to Heaven on a stormy night
The road being rough and him not well
He lost his way and went to --

CHORUS:

Hopalong Peter where you going
Hopalong Peter where you going
Hopalong Peter won't you bear in mind
I ain't coming back till the gooseberry time

Old mother Hubbard and her dog were Dutch
A bow-legged rooster and he hobbled on a crutch
Hen chewed tobacco and the duck drank wine
The goose played the fiddle on the pumpkin vine

(CHORUS)

Down in the barnyard playing seven up
The old tom cat and the little yellow pup
The old mother Hubbard she's a-picking out the fleas
The rooster in the cream jar up to his knees

(CHORUS)

I've got a sweet gal this here town
If she weighs an ounce she weighs seven hundred pounds
Every time my sweet gal turns once around
The heel of her shoe makes a hole in the ground

(CHORUS)

mike-fiddle & lead voice
tom-5-string banjo & tenor voice
john-guitar & bass voice

SIDE I, Band 3: BEWARE, OH TAKE CARE

(Source: Blind Alfred and Orville Reed)

We know young men are bold and free,
Beware, oh take care,
They tell you they're friends but they're liars
you see --
Beware, oh take care.

CHORUS:

Beware young ladies, they're fooling you,
Trust them not, they're fooling you,
Beware young ladies, they're fooling you,
Beware, oh take care.

They smoke, they chew, they wear fine shoes,
Beware, oh take care,
And in their pocket is a bottle of booze,
Beware, oh take care.

(CHORUS)

Around their neck they wear a guard,
Beware, oh take care,
And in their pocket is a deck of cards,
Beware, oh take care.

(CHORUS)

They put their hands up to their hearts,
They sigh, oh they sigh,
They say they love no one but you,
They lie, oh they lie.

(CHORUS)

John - guitar and lead voice
Mike - fiddle
Tom - banjo and harmony

SIDE I, Band 4: SOLDIER SOLDIER WILL YOU MARRY ME

Soldier, soldier, will you marry me now,
To the musket, the fife, and the drum?
How could I marry such a pretty little girl,
When I have no coat to put on?

So down she ran to the coat-maker's shop,
As fast as she could go,
And she bought him a coat of the very very best,
And the soldier put it on.

Soldier, soldier, will you marry me now,
To the musket, the fife, and the drum?
How could I marry such a pretty little girl,
When I have no hat to put on?

So down she ran to the hat-maker's shop,
As fast as she could go,
And bought him a hat of the very very best,
And the soldier put it on.

Soldier, soldier, will you marry me now,
To the musket, the fife, and the drum?
How can I marry such a pretty little girl,
When I have no shoes to put on?

So down she ran to the shoe-maker's shop,
As fast as she could go,
And bought him shoes of the very very best
And the soldier put them on.

Soldier, soldier, will you marry me now,
To the musket, the fife, and the drum?
How could I marry such a pretty little girl,
With a wife and two children at home?

Honest Tom - vocal & guitar

SIDE I, Band 5: EYES ARE BLUE

(Learned in 1948 from Woody Wachtel of N.Y.,
who got it from Rufus Crisp of Allen, Ky.)

What do we do with the baby-oh
What do we do with the baby-oh
What do we do with the baby-oh
Send him home to his mammy oh

CHORUS:

Eyes are blue, cheeks are red
Eyes are blue, cheeks are red
Eyes are blue, cheeks are red
Lips as sweet as gingerbread

I got a girl named Mary Lee
I asked her if she'd marry me
She says, "I like your manners, Joe
But I gotta stay home with my mammy-o."

(CHORUS)

Down in the roller, a cow bell rings,
A bulldog barks and a jaybird sings
Sung so loud his throat run dry
Ought to heard the jay-bird cry

(CHORUS)

John - banjo & vocal

SIDE I, Band 6: CHARLEY HE'S A GOOD OL'MAN

(Source: Kelly Harrell)

CHORUS:

Charley, he's a good ol' man
Charley, he's a dandy ol' man
Charley, he's a good ol' man
Feeds those girls on candy

Single life is a happy life
Single life is lovely
I am single and I have no wife
And no one can control me

(CHORUS)

I don't want none of your weevily wheat
I don't want none of your barley
But I want some of the best ol' flour
To bake a cake for Charley

(CHORUS)

Charley, he's a good ol' man
Takes me out a-fishing
I put the bait on Charlie's hook
And I like to see him catch them

(CHORUS)

Some folks marry for good looks
Some folks marry for money
But I'm gonna marry to a country little girl
Kiss her and call her honey

(CHORUS)

John-vocal & banjo
Mike-fiddle

SIDE I, Band 7: ADAM IN THE GARDEN PINNIN' LEAVES

(Source: Our Singing Country - J.A. Lomax
sung by Alberta Bradford, 72, and
Becky Elsy, 86 - Avery Island, La.
1934)

CHORUS:

Oh Eve where's Adam (3)
Adam in the garden pinning leaves

Well I know my God is a man of war
Adam in the garden pinning leaves
He fought the battle at the Jericho wall
Adam in the garden pinning leaves

(CHORUS)

Well the first time God called Adam refused
to answer
Adam in the garden pinning leaves
Well the first time God called Adam refused
to answer
Adam in the garden pinning leaves

(CHORUS)

And the next time God called God hollered louder
Adam in the garden pinning leaves
Well the next time God called God hollered louder
Adam in the garden pinning leaves

(CHORUS)(2)

Mike-12-string guitar & lead voice
Tom-tenor voice
John-bass voice

SIDE I, Band 8: CHEWING GUM

(Source: Carter Family)

Mama sent me to the spring
She told me not to stay
Fell in love with a pretty little girl
Could not get away

CHORUS:

Chawing chewing gum, chewing chawing gum (2)

First she gave me peaches nice
Then she gave me pears
Next she gave me 50 cents
Kissed me on the stairs

(CHORUS)

I wouldn't have a lawyer
Now here's the reason why
Every time he opens his mouth
He tells a great big lie

(CHORUS)

I wouldn't have a doctor
Now here's the reason why
He rides all over the country
A-making the people die

(CHORUS)

I took my girl to the church last nite
And what do you reckon she done
She walked right up to the preacher's face
And chawed her chewing gum

(CHORUS)

Mama don't 'low me to whistle
Poppa don't 'low me to sing
They don't want me to marry
I'll marry just the same

(CHORUS)

Mike-autoharp & voice
Tom-5-string banjo

SIDE I, Band 9: COTTON EYE JOE

(Source: Bob Wills)

Don't you remember don't you know
Daddy worked a man called cotton eye Joe (2)

If it hadn't been for cotton eye Joe
I'd a been married a long time ago (2)

Tune up your fiddle and resin your bow
Play a little tune called cotton eye Joe (2)

Where do you come from where do you go?
Where do you come from cotton eye Joe? (2)

Come for to see you, I come for to sing,
I come for to show you my diamond ring. (2)

Tom - vocal and banjo.

SIDE II, Band 1: JENNIE JENKINS

(Source: Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Ball)

Oh, will you wear white, my dear, oh my dear,
Oh, will you wear white, Jennie Jenkins?
No I won't wear white
For the color's too bright,
I'll buy me a fol-de roll-de, till-de toll-de
Seek-a-double use-a cause-a Rolllll to find me,
Roll, Jennie Jankins, roll.

Will you wear red? etc.
No I won't wear red,
It's the color of my head, etc.

Will you wear green? etc.
No I won't wear green,
I'm ashamed to be seen, etc.

Oh, will you wear blue? etc.
No, I won't wear blue
'Cause the color's too foo, etc.

Oh will you wear black? etc.
No I won't wear black,
It's the color of a sack, etc.

Oh, what will you wear? etc.
I'll just go bare
With a ribbon in my hair, etc.

mike-autoharp & vocal
john-guitar & vocal

SIDE II, Band 2: BARBARA ALLEN

(Source: B.L. Lunsford, Asheville, N.C., 1935)

Twas in the merry month of May,
The roses were a-blooming,
Sweet William on his death-bed lay
For the love of Barbara Allen.

They sent his servant to the town
The place where she was a-dwelling
Saying, "master's sick, so very sick,
If you be Barbara Allen."

And slowly slowly got she up
And slowly she went to him
And all she said when she got there:
"Young man, I think you're a dying."

Oh do you remember Saturday night
When you were at the tavern
You toasted all the ladies all
But slighted Barbara Allen.

As she went down that long piney walk
She heard the small birds a-singing
And every note those small birds sang
"Hard-hearted Barbara Allen."

She had not got one mile from home
Till she heard the death bell a-tolling
And every note those death bells tolled,
"Hard-hearted Barbara Allen."

She looked to the east, and she looked to
the west

She saw that pale corpse a-coming
Go open up that pale cold corpse
And let me gaze upon him.

Oh mother, oh mother, make my bed
Make it long and narrow.
Sweet William died for me today,
I'll die for him tomorrow.

And Barbara was buried in a new-made grave,
And William was buried by her
On William's grave grew a red red rose,
On Barbara's grew a green briar.

They grew 'til they reached the old church tower
They did not grow any higher
They linked and twined in a true love knot
The rose grew around the briar
And they withered and died together.

SIDE II, Band 3: HOP HIGH LADIES

(Source: Uncle Dave Macon)

Have you ever been to meeting, Uncle Joe, Uncle Joe?
I don't mind the weather so the wind don't blow.

REFRAIN:

Hop high ladies for the cake's all dough
How I get enough time, Lord, I never will know.

Will your horse carry double, Uncle Joe, Uncle Joe?
I don't mind the weather so the wind don't blow.

(REFRAIN)

Is your horse a single-footer, Uncle Joe, Uncle Joe?
I don't mind the weather so the wind don't blow.

(REFRAIN)

Would you rather have a pacer, Uncle Joe, Uncle Joe?
I don't mind the weather so the wind don't blow.

(REFRAIN)

tom-banjo and vocal
mike-fiddle

SIDE II, Band 4: RABBIT CHASE

(Source: Charlie Parker)

Well you know how the old lady is, she gets up in the morning feeling pretty bad. Says to the old man, "If I had a rabbit this morning I think I'd feel better." The old man says to the old woman, "I love you and anything I can do for you, I will." "Sit down under the hill and catch me a rabbit." (He's) Sittin' down beside and his ears pick up like a Kentucky mule. This old man hadn't seen a rabbit in forty years. The old lady hadn't seen one in fifty. So he round up an' call the ol' dog - 'gonna have a little fun' - he says, Here, here, here, here
Yonder he goes, yonder he goes, yonder he goes - can't you see. That ol' dog is lying behind the house in the sunshine, like a dog does in the summertime.

He heard the ol' man calling and he raised up and listened. Hears the ol' man - giving 'em something like this says - Roff, roff, roff, roff

Yonder he goes, yonder he goes, yonder he goes - can't you see. The ol' man put a lead on the backtrack, the dog run so fast he hate to call him back. He ought to give him a straight trail to see how fast he could run in his old days - and he said - Here, here, here, here
Yonder he goes, yonder he goes, yonder he goes - can't you see. The ol' dog went down the mountain, he give him something like this - says Roff, roff, roff, roff - yonder he goes. You know how little children are, being mad in the morning; you won't know what's the matter with 'em - One little boy been sitting around - hasn't said nothing all morning - All at once he said, "Mamma". She said, "What, son?" "Pa's gonna catch a rabbit ma." (3 times) Yonder - yonder - yonder.

John - vocal & banjo

SIDE II, Band 5: COMMON BILL

(Source: Vanny Mechaux, I.C. Greer)

I will tell you of a fellow, of a fellow I have seen, Who is neither white nor yellow, but altogether green. And his name it isn't charming, for it's only common Bill,
And he wants for me to wed him, but I hardly think I will.

REFRAIN:

Poor Bill, poor silly Bill,
He wants for me to wed him, but I hardly think I will.

He came one night to see me, and he made so long a stay,
I began to think that lunkhead would never go away.
And he talked of devotion, of devotion pure and bright,
And to think, that silly fellow, he nearly stayed all night.

REFRAIN:

Poor Bill, poor silly Bill,
And to think, that silly fellow, he nearly stayed all night.

Well, he wants for me to wed him, and the very Deuce is in it,
For he says if I don't marry him, then he can't live a minute.
And you know the blessed Bible, it teaches not to kill,
So I've thought the matter over, and I guess I'll marry Bill.

