

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FTS 32431 STEREO

The De Busk-Weaver Family Meeting in the Air

Dedicated to the Memory of Mother Maybelle Carter



LIZ DE BUSK, DONALD WEAVER, BURTON DE BUSK, LINDA WEAVER

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SIDE ONE

Poor Orphan Child
August 1, 1927—Bristol, Tenn.
Little Log Cabin By the Sea
August 1, 1927—Bristol, Tenn.
Keep On The Sunnyside
May 10, 1928—Camden, N.J.
Anchored In Love
May 10, 1928—Camden, N.J.
The Cyclone of Rycove
November 22, 1929—Atlanta, Ga.

SIDE TWO

No Telephone In Heaven
November 26, 1929—Atlanta, Ga.
On The Rock Where Moses Stood
November 24, 1930—Memphis, Tenn.
Glory To The Lamb
May 5, 1935—New York City, N.Y.
Little Poplar Log House On The Hill
October 3, 1940—Chicago, Ill.
Meeting In The Air
October 4, 1940—Chicago, Ill.

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43 W. 61st ST., N.Y.C., 10023 N.Y., U.S.A.

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Meeting in the Air

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET COVER DESIGN BY RONALD CLYNE

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Notes by Hal Bruno

There is a direct, natural link between the DeBusk-Weaver Family of Oxford, Pennsylvania, and the Carter Family of Maces Springs, Virginia. It results in this DeBusk-Weaver musical tribute honoring the 50th anniversary of the first recording made by Maybelle, Sara and A.P. Carter -- the immortal trio that brought country music to an entire nation in the 1930's and 1940's.

The DeBusk-Weaver family roots go back to the same region of southwest Virginia as the Carters and scores of famous country musicians who were inspired by them. Burton DeBusk was born near Damascus and his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Bordwine) near Saltville. They and their daughter, Linda, lived in the foothills around Clinch Mountain, about 30 miles from the Carter family homestead. The DeBusks moved north to the Pennsylvania-Maryland border area in 1960, but still have relatives back in Poor Valley, Virginia. Donald Weaver, who is Linda's husband, was raised in southeastern Pennsylvania; but his father had migrated from Ashe County, North Carolina, during the depression and Donnie grew up with an appreciation of the Carter Family in his home. Their records were the first he ever heard.

Like the Carters, the DeBusk-Weaver Family began singing in church and at home to entertain friends and neighbors. They sent a tape to disc jockey Robert Montgomery, in nearby Lancaster, who immediately sensed a spark in their music and invited them to appear at his popular country-bluegrass-gospel show, "Shindig In The Barn." That was 1971 and launched what has become a successful part-time musical career for the father, mother, daughter and son-in-law. Unlike the Carters, who performed all types of songs, the DeBusk-Weavers limit their repertoire to sacred music as an expression of their personal religious faith.

From the start, they were heavily influenced by the Carters and their music has that haunting "Poor Valley sound." It is similar, yet different, for they also give it the more complex harmonies of The Chuck Wagon Gang and the intense feeling of the legendary Molly O'Day -- two other major influences on the DeBusk-Weaver Family. As Linda Weaver explains it: "We haven't tried to copy the Carter Family, but they are an inspiration to us."

Which led to the DeBusk-Weaver recording of this album on August 1, 1977, in Bristol, Tennessee, exactly 50 years to the day when the Carters journeyed to the same town to make their first records in an abandoned warehouse. Included are two songs from that historic session: "Poor Orphan Child" and "Little Log Cabin By The Sea." The ten selections comprise a cross-section of Carter Family sacred and semi-gospel music, including their familiar theme song, "Keep On The Sunnyside," and some

lesser-known tunes, such as "The Cyclone of Rycove" and "No Telephone In Heaven." It ends with "Meeting In The Air," recorded by the Carters in 1940 and perhaps one of their greatest songs.

Some of the DeBusk-Weaver renditions are remarkably close to the Carter Family originals, but many have a distinctive interpretation because the DeBusk-Weavers often sing four-part harmony while the Carters were a trio. For this special occasion, Donnie Weaver put aside his flat-top guitar and picked lead on a Gibson arch-top model with F-holes, similar to the guitar used by Maybelle Carter. It's obvious that Donnie learned to play while listening to Carter Family records -- as did two generations of country music artists. On some selections, Donnie or Linda play autoharp while Burton DeBusk plays rhythm guitar, with Maybelle's unique "church-lick" strum. The DeBusk-Weaver family is especially grateful that Mother Maybelle Carter knew of this album before she passed away on October 28, 1978.

The Carter Family is enshrined in Nashville's Country Music Hall of Fame. Maybelle, Sara and A.P. Carter are gone, but their music lives on with Burton and Mary Elizabeth DeBusk, Donnie and Linda Weaver. They are an authentic part of an American tradition that began on August 1, 1927, when the Carter Family first gave their music to the world.

This album is the DeBusk-Weaver Family's testimony to that sparkling heritage.

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POOR ORPHAN CHILD

I
I hear a low faint voice that says, my papa & mama's dead
And it comes from the poor orphan child, that must be
clothed & fed
And it comes from the poor orphan child, that must be
clothed & fed
And it comes from the poor orphan child, that must be
clothed & fed

(Chorus)

Saviour Lead . . . them by the hand . . .
Saviour lead them by the hand, yes gently lead them by the
hand

Saviour gently lead . . . them by the hand . . .
Saviour lead them by the hand, yes gently lead them by the
hand

Saviour Lead . . . them by the hand . . .
Saviour lead them by the hand, yes gently lead them by the
hand

'Til we all reach that glittering strand
'Til we all reach that glittering strand.

II

We see so many children now, poor little boys & girls
Who wants that mothers loving hands to smooth their
golden curls
Who wants that mothers loving hands to smooth their
golden curls
Who wants that mothers loving hands to smooth their
golden curls.

III

Oh Saviour every orphan bless, wherever they may roam
Bless every hand that lends an aid, and bless the orphans
home
Bless every hand that lends an aid, and bless the orphans
home
Bless every hand that lends an aid, and bless the orphans
home.

©Carter Family 1927

LITTLE LOG CABIN BY THE SEA

©August 1, 1927 Bristol, Tenn.

I
There is a precious volume all finger worn and old
In that little log cabin by the sea
It is the old, old bible, more precious now than old
'Tis the bible that my mother gave to me

(Chorus)

'Tis the old precious bible, blessed bible
That she read in the cabin by the sea . . . by the sea
'Tis the precious, precious bible, the blessed, blessed bible
The bible that my mother gave to me.

II

How often I have listened to the tempest howling wind
Round that little log cabin by the sea
While mother read of Jesus who walked upon the wave
How Jesus calmed the stormy Galilee.

(Repeat Chorus, play a verse & sing last verse)

III

There is no other volume so precious as this book
It tells me how to live and how to die
It tells me of that city, oh wondrous wondrous book
And that I'll meet my loved ones by and by.

(Repeat Chorus and end with 2 strums)

©More Golden Gems from The Original Carter Family.

KEEP ON THE SUNNYSIDE

(Donnie lead verses 4 beats & sing)

©May 10, 1928 Camden, N.J.

I

There's a dark and a troubled side of life
There's a bright and a sunnyside too
Though we meet with the darkness and strife
The sunnyside we also may view.

(Chorus)

Keep on the sunnyside, always on the sunnyside
Keep on the sunnyside of life
It will help us everyday, it will brighten all the way
If we'll keep on the sunnyside of life.

(Play a verse)

II

The storm and its fury broke today
Crushing hopes that we cherish so dear
Clouds and storm will in time pass away
The sun again will shine bright and clear.

(Repeat Chorus & play a verse)

III

Let us greet with a song of hope, each day
Though the moment be cloudy or fair
Let us trust in our Saviour always
Who keepeth everyone in His care.

(Repeat Chorus & end 2 strums)

©Mid The Green Fields of Virginia—The Carter Family.

ANCHORED IN LOVE

©May 10, 1928 Camden, N.J.

I

I found a sweet haven of sunshine at last
And Jesus abiding above
If your arms around me are lovingly cast
And sweetly he tells his love

(Chorus)

The tem ——— pest is o'er
The dangers of tempest forever is o'er
I'm safe . . . ever more
My anchor is holding I'm safe ever more
What gladness what rapture is mine
The dan ——— ger . . . is past
The waters are peaceful the danger is past
I've an ——— chored . . . at last
My spirit is happy, I've anchored at last
I'm anchored in love devine

II

He saw me in danger and lovingly came
To pilot my stormy doomed soul
Sweet peace he has spoken and bless his
dear name

The billows no longer roll.

III

His love shall control me thru life and in death
Completely I'll trust to the end
I'll praise Him each hour and my last fleeting breath
Shall sing of my souls best friend.

CYCLONE OF RYCOVE

©November 22, 1929 Atlanta, Ga.

(Strum & start)

I
Oh listen today in a story I'll tell
Of a saddened and tear dimmed eye
Of a dreadful cyclone that came this way
And blew our schoolhouse away
(Chorus)
Rycove ——— Rycove ——— a place of my childhood
and home
Where in lifes early morn I once loved to roam
But now its so silent and lone.

II
When the cyclone appeared it darkened the air
There was lightening flashed over the sky
The children all cried don't take us away
But spare us to go back home
(Repeat Chorus, play a verse)

III
There were mothers so dear and fathers the same
That came to this horrible scene
Searching and crying each found their own child
Dying on a pillow of stone.
(Repeat Chorus)

IV
Oh, give us a home far beyond the blue sky
Where storms and cyclones are unknown
And there will I stand and clasp a glad hand
With children in a heavenly home.
(Repeat Chorus, play verse, end.)

NO TELEPHONE IN HEAVEN

©November 26, 1929 Atlanta, Ga.

(Solo)

Now I can't wait on babies, the smiling merchant said
As he stooped and softly pawed with his golden curly head
I want to call up mama, Ken answered full and free
Will you telephone and ask her, when she's coming back to
me.

My child the merchant murmured, and stroked the anxious
brow
No telephone connection where your mother lives at now
No telephone in heaven as the tears sprang in her eye
I thought God had everything, with him up in the sky
(Play last line of chorus)

And then I get so lonesome that I don't know what to do
And Papa cries so much I guess he must be lonesome too
Tell her to come to baby, cause at night I get so fraid
With no one there to kiss me, when the lights begin to fade.
(repeat Chorus)

ON THE ROCK WHERE MOSES STOOD

CRYING HOLY
(UNTO THE LORD)

©November 24, 1930 Memphis, Tenn.

(Chorus)
Crying Holy unto the Lord
Crying Holy unto the Lord
Oh if I could I surely would
Stand on the Rock praise God where Moses stood
(Play Chorus)

(Sung First)

I
Crying Holy unto the Lord
Crying Holy unto the Lord
Oh in that day when the bells don't toll
Crying Holy unto the Lord.

II
Sinners run unto the Lord
Sinners run unto the Lord
Now please don't let this harvest pass
And lose your soul at last.

III
Crying Holy unto the Lord
Crying Holy unto the Lord
The four and twenty elders
bowing all around the alter
Crying Holy unto the Lord.

©The Original And Great Carter Family.

GLORY TO THE LAMB

©May 5, 1935

(Chorus)
Glory, Glory, Glory to the Lamb
Hallelujah I am saved and I'm so glad I am
Glory, Glory, Glory to the Lamb
Hallelujah I am saved and I'm so glad I am.
(Play a verse)

I
Well I fell in love with Jesus & He fell in love with me
That's the very reason I've got this victory
I'm happy when its raining, I'm happy when it shines
I'm happy now with Jesus and I'm happy all the time.
(Repeat Chorus, play a verse)

II
On Monday I am happy, On Tuesday full of joy
Wednesday I've got the faith the devil can't destroy
On Thursday and Friday, I'm walking in the light
Saturday I've got the victory
And Sundays always bright.

LITTLE POPLAR LOG HOUSE

©October 3, 1940, Chicago, Ill.

Now my friends I want to tell you of our little country home
It is made of poplar logs up on a hill
There's where father died and left us when we all were very
young
But our mother kept us settled on the hill

When our days work on the farm was done she'd gather
us around
She would have us get down on our little knees
She would pray for God to keep us thru the night until next
day
In our little poplar log house on the hill.

Now my father was a good man which we all would like to be
When I get to heaven there his face I'll see
When I get thru with my singing I will bid this world adieu
And my little poplar log house on the hill.

THE MEETING IN THE AIR

©October 4, 1940 Chicago, Ill.

I
You have heard of little Moses in the bulrush
You have heard of fearless David and his sling
You have heard the story told of dreaming Joseph
And of Jonah and the whale you often sing
There are many, many others thru the Bible
I should like to meet them all, I do declare
By and by the Lord will surely let us meet them
At that meeting in the air.

(Chorus)

There is going to be a meeting in the air
In the sweet, sweet bye and bye
I am going to meet you, meet you there
In that home beyond the sky
Such singing you will hear, never heard by mortal ear
'T will be glorious I do declare
And God's own Son will be the leading one
At that meeting in the air.

(play a verse)

II
Many things will there be missing in that meeting
For the mourner's bench will have no place at all
There will never be a sermon preached to sinners
For the sinners had refused to heed the call
There will be no mourning over wayward loved ones
There will be no lonely nights of pleading prayer
All our burdens and our anguish will be lifted
At that meeting in the air.