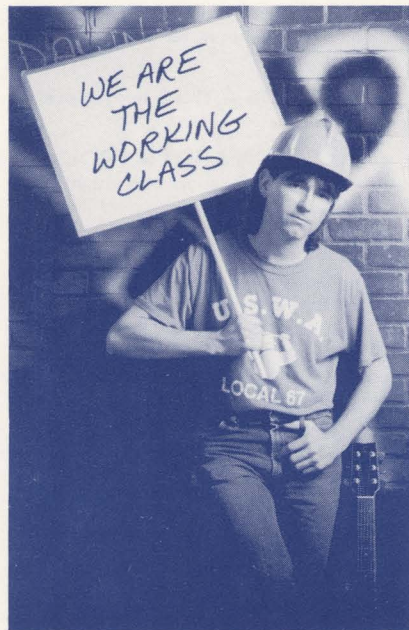


Special Thanks

- * To Dave Dowling, president of Steelworkers Local 67 in Granite City, Illinois and activist Larry Ross for putting me in touch with the Labor Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., and to all the gang at Steelworkers Local 67 for their support.
- * To my grandfather, my uncle Jim and especially my dad, Edward C. Starr, all retired steelworkers, for making it a Starr family tradition.
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- * To George Smith for lending me his Hofner and to Jesus for his cool parables.

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Songs By

- We Are The Working Class (4:54)
- The Richest Man In The Universe (3:33)
- One World Celebration (3:42)
- Everyone Knows It (3:43)
- Existence (5:55)
- I Am Union And I'm Proud (2:52)
- The Spoiled Brat Song (2:40)
- The Probationary Blues (3:00)
- Warren County Blues (3:41)
- Organize — Make A Stand (3:55)
- Existence, Part II (Instrumental) (5:00)

Eddie Starr

NOTES ON THE SONGS by EDDIE STARR

WE ARE THE WORKING CLASS

— I am a third-generation steelworker who aspired at a very young age to be a rock 'n' roll star. Well, that didn't happen. So my father tells me this: "You know son, I am not Frank Sinatra and you are not Frank Sinatra, Jr. Now that doesn't mean that you're not as talented. It just means that your old man is a steelworker. And that's certainly nothing to be ashamed of."

THE RICHEST MAN IN THE

UNIVERSE — The happiest people in the world are not the ones who place importance on material possessions, monetary gain or social status but those who know the value of good health, good friends and compassion for those less fortunate than themselves.

ONE WORLD CELEBRATION —

When one gains at the expense of another one's loss then nothing is achieved. Until the nations of the world stop competing and realize we are all of the same humanity and of the same Earth, then nothing can be achieved! I hope that one day there will, indeed, be a "One World Celebration."

EVERYONE KNOWS IT —

Everything shows it, but no one controls it.

EXISTENCE — This is just the way I feel about it.

I AM UNION AND I'M PROUD —

This song was born out of a union dispute with the company over scheduling, which involved forced overtime and 56-hour workweeks. The mill workers of Steelworkers Local 67 had meetings and worked out a plan which included picketing the corporate offices, among other activities. Soon, the company came around. A new schedule was negotiated which included adding 11 new jobs to the mill. Now, that's Union!

THE SPOILED BRAT SONG —

When a child has something the other kids don't, the child will say (for example): "I've got an ice cream and you don't—nana-nana-nana." This song is about the grown-ups in our society who are basically doing the same thing.

PROBATIONARY BLUES — To be a probationary employee means to work

without a union for a while. You sort of cross your fingers, say, "Yes sir, No sir" a lot and kiss a lot of ass. Just ask any of the guys at the Cerro Copper Plant in Illinois. This song was originally called the "Cerro Copper Blues."

WARREN COUNTY BLUES — In 1983 the people of Warren County, Missouri, under the leadership of a fiery activist named Sharon Rodgers, united and fought to keep a company from contaminating their land with a toxic waste dump. Local resident Brenda Starr Duckworth came to me with a song she had written. I recorded it and it became the people's anthem of protest. It was also the subject of a feature story on CNN News entitled, "Folk singer sings out against dioxin."

ORGANIZE — MAKE A STAND — It's just a good idea.

EXISTENCE, PART II (The Instrumental) — This is Diane Starr Gillis' orchestral production of "Existence." The first time I heard it I actually cried. Listen, as the door to your mind opens to a serene world of beauty. Surrender to your emotions and feel the peace. That is a good word. I think I'll say it again: "Peace."

COLLECTOR RECORDS specializes in cassette tapes and LP records with songs of labor, protest, politics and social commentary. Labor song books are also available. For free brochure listing 100 different records and tapes, write to: **COLLECTOR RECORDS, 1604 Arbor View Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902.**

Songs on this CD also available on cassette.

WE ARE THE WORKING CLASS

Songs By Eddie Starr

I am a third-generation steelworker who aspired at a very young age to be a rock 'n' roll star. Well, that didn't happen. So my father tells me this: "You know son, I am not Frank Sinatra and you are not Frank Sinatra, Jr. Now that doesn't mean that you're not talented. It just means that your old man is a steelworker. And that's certainly nothing to be ashamed of."

This album is dedicated to my fellow steelworkers at Granite City Steel and Cerro Copper. WE'RE UNION AND WE'RE PROUD.

EDDIE STARR
Cahokia, IL 62206

All songs written by Eddie Starr except WARREN COUNTY BLUES by Brenda Starr Duckworth. Musicians include EDDIE STARR (guitars, keyboards, flute, clarinet, harmonica and all vocals); BOB OBERTO, KEN CATES, RICK STARR (drums); JIM BOVINETTE (trumpets); JASON BIGGS (Fender Rhodes); DIANE STARR (keyboards on EXISTENCE, PART II). Digital mastering by MARK BIEHL at Crawford Post Productions, St. Louis, Mo. Cover photo by JOHN LOCUS. All songs Tomorrow's Child Publishing, BMI, ©1991 by Eddie Starr.

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