Hedy West

Old Times and Hard Times
A Topic Recording

1. The Wife Wrapt in Wether’s Skin - 2:34
2. Fair Rosamund - 1:31
3. Barbara Allen - 5:23
4. Old Joe Clark - 2:57
5. The Coal Miner’s Child - 1:41
6. Gambling Man - 2:54
7. Brother Ephus - 2:14
8. Polly - 1:33
9. The Davison-Wilder Blues - 3:50
10. Lament for Barney Graham - 1:16
11. The Rich Irish Lady - 3:00
12. Shut Up in the Mines at Coal Creek - 1:26
13. The Wife of Usher’s Well - 3:47

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Hedy West is among the best women singers of the American folksong revival. That “among” is a pretense of objectivity, my private view is that she is by far the best of the lot. She comes from North Georgia and her family were, for generations back, poor hill farmers who raised what living they could on little holdings clinging to the mountainsides. Of the most engaging and varied musical traditions of the upland Georgia poor whites, Hedy West is a superb exponent: no tricks, no impersonations, no deceptions; all artistry and conviction.

A. L. Lloyd