songs of memphis slim
and 'wee willie' dixon

SIDE I, Band 1: JOGGLE BOOGIE

Well, they took John Henry to the White House
And they buried him in the sand,
All the women from the east, the women from the west,
Come to see their steel-drivin' man,
Come to see their steel-drivin' man.

John Henry hammered in the mountain
Until his hammer caught on fire,
Well, the last word I heard the poor boy say,
"I want a cool drink of water 'fore I die,
I want a cool drink of water 'fore I die,
I want a cool drink of water 'fore I die.*"

SIDE I, Band 2: STEWBALL

There's a big -- umm-hmm
Day in Dallas -- umm-hmm
And my last -- umm-hmm
Hundred dollars -- umm-hmm
On that iron -- umm-hmm
Gray mare, see her travel.
All day long, see her travel,
All day long, all day long.

Well I know my -- horse races --
If it wasn't for -- for my wife --
Old Stewball -- he may stumble --
Get away with -- my life, wife and baby:

Left behind, wife and baby,
Left behind, left behind.

Old Stewball -- was a black horse --
Just as slick as -- a mole --
He had a ring 'round -- his fore-shoulder --
And it shined -- just like gold.

Like gold, like gold,
He had a ring 'round his fore-shoulder
And it shined just like gold.

Old Stewball -- was a race-horse --
And old Molly -- she was too --
Old Molly -- she stumbled --
And Old Stewball -- she flew round the race-track.

All day long, 'round the race track,
All day long, all day long.

SIDE I, Band 3: JOHN HENRY

John Henry had a little woman,
Well I dreamed she wore a dress,
She went walkin' down the track and never looked back
Upon where John Henry fell dead,
Upon where John Henry fell dead.

John Henry he had a little woman
By the name of Polly Ann
John Henry taken sick and he had to go to bed,
Polly Ann drove steel like a man,
Polly Ann drove steel like a man.

John Henry told his little woman,
"Honey, fix my supper soon,
I've got a 90-mile track that I got to line back,
Gonna line 'em by the light of the moon,
Gonna line 'em by the light of the moon."

John Henry had a little woman,
Well I dreamed she wore a dress,
She went walkin' down the track and never looked back
Upon where John Henry fell dead,
Upon where John Henry fell dead.

You know that old-time tune they made up about different cities? The one I like best is a song about Kansas City by Jim Jackson -- something like this:

How I was first on Main Street
Again on Beale
I was looking for that gal they call Lucille.

She done move to Kansas City sure's you born
She done move to Kansas City sure's you born
She done move baby, honey
Where they don't allow you.

Now take a rocking chair 'n rock,
A rubber ball 'n roll,
A brown-skinned woman to satisfy my soul.

But she doesn't move to Kansas City, sure's you born,
But she doesn't move to Kansas City, sure's you born,
She doesn't move baby, honey
Where they don't allow you.

Now I've got a woman
I've got a bulldog too
My woman don't love me but my bulldog do.

I'm gonna move to Kansas City as sure's you born,
Gonna move to Kansas City as sure's you born,
I'm gonna move baby, honey
Where they don't allow you.

That was the "Kansas City" by the one and only Jim Jackson, guitar player from Memphis, Tennessee, back in the early Twenties.

SIDE I, Band 4: KANSAS CITY #1

You know that old-time tune they made up about different cities? The one I like best is a song about Kansas City by Jim Jackson -- something like this:

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That was the "Kansas City" by the one and only Jim Jackson, guitar player from Memphis, Tennessee, back in the early Twenties.

SIDE I, Band 5: KANSAS CITY #2

This is by the one and only Big Bill Broonzy.

Well, I've been in Kansas City, Lordy,
Everything was really all right.
Well, I've been in Kansas City, Lordy,
Everything was really all right.
Well, I watched them dance and swing,
Well, until broad daylight.

Well, I dreamed last night
I was standing on 10th and Vine,
Well, I dreamed last night
I was standing on 10th and Vine,
I shook hands with Friday Brown
And I could hardly keep from crying.

Well, come to me baby,
I wanna tell why I'm in love with you,
Please come to me baby,
I wanna tell why I'm in love with you.
Because you understand
Every little thing I do.

I wanna watch you, baby,
While your tears roll down your cheeks,
I wanna watch you, baby,
While your tears roll down your cheeks.
I wanna hold your hand and tell you
That your kind can't be beat.
Yes, tell you that your kind can't be beat.

SIDE I, Band 6: KANSAS CITY #3
The one I know by Love Willie Lovefield

Going to Kansas City,
Kansas City here I come,
Kansas City here I come.
They got some crazy little women there
And I'm gonna get me one.

Now, I'll be standing on the corner,
12th Street and Vine,
Said I'll be standing on the corner,
12th Street and Vine,
With my Kansas City baby
And a bottle of cherry wine.

Well I may take a train,
I may take a plane,
But if I have to walk
I'm going just the same.

I'm going to Kansas City,
Kansas City here I come,
They got some crazy little women there
And I'm gonna get me one.

Now if I've got to stay with that woman
I know I'm gonna die,
Got to find a brand new baby
And that's the reason why --

I'm going to Kansas City,
Kansas City here I come,
I'm going to Kansas City,
Kansas City here I come,
They've got some crazy little baby there
And I'm gonna get me one.

SIDE II, Band 1: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO NASHVILLE?

Have you ever been to Nashville?
Have you ever been to Nashville?
Have you ever been to Nashville?
Oh Lordy, the Nashville Pen.

Boy, if you don't quit your stealing
Oh Lordy you're going back again.

My woman ain't nothing
Oh Lordy but skin and bone.

Well, my first hundred dollars
Oh Lordy, I . . .

Yonder coming Bertha
Oh Lordy how in the world do you know?

I can tell from her apron
Oh Lordy and the dress she wore.
And the dress she wore.

SIDE II, Band 2: ROLL AND TUMBLE

Mama, I'm rolling and tumbling
And I'd cry the whole night long
Well, I woke up this morning
Didn't know right from wrong.

There's no need to worry about me when
I'm gone
Well, you got the best girl, mama,
And I ain't going to do nothing wrong.

You know, I told my baby
Before I left that town
Don't you let nobody tear my playhouse down.

Now the devil rules Hell,
The good Lord rules up above
Tell me what good's a man
If he can't rule the woman he loves?

SIDE II, Band 3: BEER DRINKING WOMAN

I walked into a beer tavern
To give a girl a nice time
I had $45 when I entered
When I left I had one dime.

CHORUS:
Wasn't that a beer-drinking woman?
Don't you know, man, don't you know?
She was a beer-drinking woman
And I don't want to see her no more.

When I was spent down to my last dime
She says, "Darling, I know you're not through."
I says, "Yes, little girl,
And the trumpet belongs to you."

CHORUS:
Wasn't that a beer-drinking etc.

Now she often says, "Excuse me a minute,
I've got to step around here."
And every time she comes back
She had room for another quart of beer.

CHORUS:
Wasn't that a beer-drinking etc.

SIDE II, Band 4: CHICAGO HOUSE RENT PARTY

"Man, you know, every Monday morning, that landlady's sweeping right in front of my door."

"Why'n't you pay the rent, man?"

"I figure she gone sweep a hole in the floor."

"Let's take up a collection behind this number, you know."

"Somebody needed to pay the rent!"

"All we need is old Frank and old Bill and Mary May,
Jessie and Alberta and all them gals. Come down here man and buy this corn. You got it made man. Rich pay."  

"You know that woman's going to throw me out if I start any stuff like that."  

"Why don't you play them blues lonesome enough. She'll be there. Kind of wink your eye a little bit. She might give you rent free. You know she's got eyes."  

"Boy! Boy!"  

"Man you've got to play some real lonesome blues for her to forget the rent you know. I'll show you a part she likes. Play like this now. Tickle it a little. She digs that man."  

"That might tickle her and make her laugh but it won't make her forget the rent. I got something she might like, something like this: You think she'll like that?"  

"I don't know man. Try it again... Like the landlady asked you about the back rent, you told her, "No I ain't got no front rent!"  

"Heh-heh. She lucky to get rent. Talking 'bout throwing me out."  

"Whyn't you come on over and stay with me in Washington Park? You won't have to worry about no landlady. Just dodge the police."  

"Yeah, but my feet is already sore from last summer in the park."  

"Bet if you'd hide behind Bush Nine they'd never find you."  

"That's where they caught me at before."  

"They moved Bush Nine."  

"Oh yeah!"  

"Down by the lagoon."  

"You might have something there but I ain't gonna take no chances. I think I'll try to con this landlady a little bit. I'm gonna call her a few sweet names."  

"Yeah?"  

"You know, I'll get her here and I'll call her. I'll say, Baby, Sugar, Honey, You know I -- I just ain't got it this time, but I'll be all right next time."  

LANDLADY: YOUBETTERGIAMEYOURRENT!  

SIDE II, Band 6: UNLUCKY  

I was born on the 13th, I'm my mama's 13th son (2)  
And I don't want all the money in the world,  
Do you know I have none.  
I've got no education, I'm just another foolin' Tom,  
I've got no fat education, I'm just another foolin' Tom.  
One day I went to school, do you know the school burned down.  
I had soup for dinner, couldn't even find a spoon,  
I had soup for dinner, couldn't even find a spoon,  
I aimed to get up early in the morning,  
Didn't wake up till late this afternoon.  

SIDE II, Band 5: 44 BLUES  

Well, I walked all night long with my 44 in my hand (2)  
I was looking for a woman and I found her with another man.  
I was holding my 44 so long, Lord, it made my shoulder sore  
And when I do want I want to, I won't wear my 44 no more. (2)  
Now my baby says she heard that 44's was no good  
Sounds like she ain't going to blow no more.