“EARTH IS EARTH”...
SUNG BY THE NEW LOST CITY BANG BOYS

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FF 869
33½ R. P. M.
These four earthy old-time songs are performed by the New Lost City Bang Boys, three young men who were born and raised in and around New Lost City, which is famous for earth and old-time songs.

Other traditional performers from the area have gone on to fame and fortune and these boys seem to have the talent to follow in the footsteps of such well-known predecessors as Deaf Dave Doaks (the famous earthy old-time fiddler), Barney Gorse (the banjo picker and axe-murderer, whose hanging was the best attended ever in the whole state), Miss Lulu Cornplaster (that lovely New Lost City girl who made a name for herself in some of the best houses in the country and who is honored in one of the songs on this record), and the New Lost City Ramblers (about whom the less said the better).

THE SONGS

Then It Won’t Hurt: This was the marching song of the drill team of the 1931 State Dental Convention in New Lost City and has been popular in the area ever since. It has its roots deep in the soil.

Women Wear No Clothes at All: In the mayoralty campaign of 1924, Frank Wimble campaigned with a platform based on the encouragement of nudity in New Lost City. This was the election song which, together with a poster prominently featuring the most prominent features of his campaign manager, Miss Lulu Cornplaster, swept him into office.

Bang Bang Lulu: This song was dedicated by Mayor Wimble to Miss Cornplaster at the town 4th of July picnic in 1925, just prior to her departure for New Orleans to embark upon her glamorous career. It is worth mention that Lulu’s first employment in New Orleans was procured for her by a committee of kindly elderly ladies who felt that this was one way they could help to further her career. As the chairlady of the committee, Mrs. Frank Wimble, said: “The further the better.”

My Sweet Farm Girl: This song comes from South New Lost City Depot, which is a very rough little section of the city. No nice people ever go there.

Discography

‘When Lulu’s Gone’ is from an old recording by the ‘Bang Boys’ who were actually Roy Acuff and his band.

‘Then It Won’t Hurt No More’ is from Buster Carter and Preston Young who recorded in the late 20’s. Perhaps they are best known for their rendition of the ‘Lazy Farm Boy’ which can be heard on the Folkways Anthology series. (FA 2951) In fact, ‘Hurt no More’ is on the reverse side of the original Columbia record, and the ‘Lazy Farm Boy’ may now be understood as referring to more than that to which it refers. Tom Ashley learned ‘My Sweet Farm Girl’ from some Negro workers at a country carnival, and he recorded it for Vocalion. Fiddlin’ Bob Larkin is the source for ‘Women Wear No Clothes At All’. He also recorded a song about ‘The Higher up the money climbs, the greater he shows his ya da dada da-de, ya ta ta.’

When the idea of this little collection was presented to Moe Asch, director of Folkways Records, he was being assured that everything would be all right, and that all these songs were already out on commercial recordings. “Never mind” he said, “Don’t explain to me, EARTH IS EARTH”.

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