HERE I STAND
Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song

BY LARRY LONG

With The Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama
FIELD RECORDINGS Vol. 1

PROJECT OF THE PACERS
SMALL SCHOOLS COOPERATIVE, U.S.A.
HERE I STAND: Elders’ Wisdom, Children’s Song
Larry Long with the Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama

1. Arthur Slater (spoken) 1:19
2. My Charge To Keep (sung) 2:43
3. A Charge To Keep I Have (sung) 0:53
4. Jerry Hall (spoken) 1:09
5. I've Got Work To Do (sung) 3:19
6. Danny Garcia (spoken) 1:05
7. Guadalajara, Mexico (sung) 5:26
8. Sally Goodin (Fiddle/Sabrina Williams) 2:53
9. Mary Stewart (spoken) 1:10
10. Old Camp Hill (sung) 3:07
11. Walter Frederick Browder (spoken) 1:01
12. My Little Town (sung) 5:13
13. Lily Mae Stewart (spoken) 1:45
(The Charming Black Mustache - sung)
14. Hard Times, Good Times in Coffee Springs (sung) 4:52
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16. I Will Sing Alleluia, Oh Lord (sung) 2:09
(Commentary Youth Choir, Camp Hill, AL)
17. Atha Thacker (spoken) 1:16
18. Hey Coal Miner (sung) 2:57
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20. Wash Day is Every Day (sung) 2:47
21. Ezra Cunningham (spoken) 1:11
22. Way Down Yonder in the White Man’s Field (sung) 5:59
23. Lewis Martin, Jr. (spoken) 0:33
24. I Know My Redeemer Lives (sung) 3:30
25. Bill Godwin (spoken) 0:40
26. Not A Hog Thief Or A Liar (sung) 5:38
27. Gladys Milton (spoken) 1:25
28. Why Not Me, Lord (sung) 5:12
29. Walter Frederick Browder (spoken) 0:21

When senior members of a community go into schools and talk about their lives and work, and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work. In these 1994-1995 recordings, Alabama elders talk about their lives, and children from eleven small rural public schools sing compositions based on the elders’ words.

Interviews and song texts included. Supplementary song book and teacher’s guides available for classroom use.

Compiled, recorded and produced by Larry Long in conjunction with the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative, Program for Rural Services & Research at the University of Alabama.

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Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song
Larry Long with the Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama

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In collaboration with the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative and the Program for Rural Services and Research at the University of Alabama
Words and music by Larry Long and the Youth and Elders of Rural Alabama

Tracks:
1. Arthur Slater (spoken) 1:19
2. My Charge To Keep (sung) 2:43
3. A Charge To Keep I Have (sung) 0:53 (from Charles Wesley & Lowell Mason/The New National Baptist Hymnal)
4. Jerry Hall (spoken) 1:09
5. I've Got Work To Do (sung) 3:19
6. Danny Garcia (spoken) 1:05
7. Guadalajara, Mexico (sung) 5:26
8. Sally Goodin (Trad.) (instrumental) 2:53
9. Mary Stuart (spoken) 1:10
10. Old Camp Hill (sung) 3:07
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All melodies by Larry Long, unless otherwise noted.

Introduction

Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song is a celebration of rural Alabama communities. It is based upon the shared memories and wisdom of their elder members fashioned into songs by school children. As a part of Celebration of Community & Place, the elders told their stories and the children listened. With the help of their teachers and the creative guidance of Larry Long, the children transformed the stories into artwork, recitations, and songs. Students became historians, writers, artists, and musicians for their communities; they became links between the past and present.

Work is the prevailing theme. Like the peoples, cultures, and communities represented, the work is diverse. The songs are of Appalachian people who dug coal for little reward and faced the dangers of the mines; they are about people in the fields of the Black Belt—ill paid and used; they are of people doing the hard, everyday work of home, of people who brought life and of people.
intent upon making a living. The elders' sober sense of responsibility, of "charges to keep" and "work to do," is matched by their good humor and genuine satisfaction. Their lively recollections of their communities are entwined with the problems of those places and their history. Their paths have not been easy; the legacy of war and the absence of rights, the loss of jobs, forests, and health are matters of record in the collection. The elders who emerge in the songs are determined and strong, committed and competent, and appropriate witnesses to their communities.

The songs and their accompanying recitations were originally performed by the children and Larry Long as part of public celebrations honoring the elders and powerfully linking schools and communities. Inevitably the performances indicated the capacity of schools to honor their communities and to preserve, enrich, and celebrate their culture. At the same time Celebration of Community & Place makes clear that communities are important and stimulating learning resources for schools and that the study of their own places provides students with unique and relevant opportunities to use and acquire academic skills.

Celebration of Community & Place was sponsored by the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative as a part of its program, Better Schools Building Better Communities. PACERS is an association of 28 small rural Alabama public schools committed to strengthening schools and communities. In its Better Schools program, students study, document, serve, and celebrate their communities through a variety of curricular and extracurricular formats. PACERS/Better Schools is funded by the Lyndhurst and Ford Foundations and coordinated by the Program for Rural Services and Research at the University of Alabama.

Jack Shelton, Director
Program for Rural Services and Research
University of Alabama

1. **Arthur Slater (spoken)**
   **Coffeeville, Alabama, pop.: 431**

I'm Arthur Slater, born here in Coffeeville, Alabama in Clarke County, March 24, 1929. I remember the first radio that came to Coffeeville, that we were exposed to. Mr. Miller Howze had a radio, and everybody in the community went to listen to that radio when Joe Louis was going to fight. That was a big kick for us, we enjoyed it. I never will forget one night, we ran all the way from home down to the house to hear Joe Louis fight. And when he went in the ring, he knocked that man out in about four seconds after he was in the ring. And we made a big run for nothing. But we had fun doing that. That was a lot of fun to us because that's the only thing we did have that we got fun out of. We had to do a lot of work and what we were being taught was how to do the job, not manage the job. The White man would manage the job and we would do the work. So they couldn't say "future farmer," they had to say "Negro farmer."

2. **My Charge To Keep (Ballad of Arthur Slater)**

Words: Larry Long with Mrs. Ethel T. Leslie's 3rd grade class of Coffeeville Elementary.

My name is Arthur Slater/From Clarke County, Alabama/Born March 24, 1929/We lived on what we could raise/In lower Alabama/Farming logs, paper, wood/Chickens, mules, and cows. **It's my charge to keep. (4X)**

We plowed it, hoed it, picked it/Scratched it raw in Alabama/Peanuts, cotton, black-eyed peas/Fifty cents a day/The Blacks went here/The Whites went there/Here in Alabama/Clarke County Training School/Is where I had to go. **It's my charge to keep. (4X)**

Barefoot in the briar stickers/Cut in Alabama/In hand-me-down uniforms/Boy, could we play ball/Now, today, it makes me proud/To see in Alabama/Black and White kids on the field/In brand new uniforms. **It's my charge to keep. (4X)**

My name is Arthur Slater/From Clarke County, Alabama.

3. **A Charge To Keep I Have (sung)**

featuring Arthur Slater

A Charge to Keep I have/A God to glorify/Who gave His Son my soul to save/And fit it for the sky.
To serve the present age/My calling to fulfill/May it all my pow'rs engaged/To do my master's will.
"It just depends what kind of mood he's in, you know. Beautiful, I like it."

4. Jerry Hall (spoken)
Wadley, Alabama, pop.: 517

My name's Jerry Hall. I was born January the 28th, 1943. Fifty years ago, my daddy bought a little store downtown. Let me tell you about this embarrassing thing. This little girl was picking on me, she was about like 5 or 6 years old, I was like ten, eleven, or twelve years old. I was down on my knees, working over there and putting up stuff on the shelf and I thought she had slipped up behind me, so I turned around and grabbed her real quick and she hollered, and when she hollered I pinched her again. And then I looked around and I didn't have that little girl, I had her Momma by the leg. I didn't know what to do. I was so embarrassed. The first thing I did, I turned her leg loose, and then I got out of there. I stayed out until that woman was gone. It took me a long time to face that woman again.

5. I've Got Work To Do (The Ballad of Hall's Red & White Super Market)
( Inspired by the good work of Jerry Dwight Hall, Roosevelt "Moot" Staples, and Mr. Dwight Hall)
Words: Larry Long with Mrs. Donna Hall's 4th grade class of Wadley High School.

Fifty years ago/My Dad bought a store downtown/Times were much different/Than they are now/Sold a lot of chickens/Mother's Best Flour sacks/That came and went/Like the trains that roll/Down the railroad tracks.

(Chorus)
There wasn't much time/To play outside/Had a job to go to/Hauling feed/Shelves to clean/I've got work to do.

Sugar, meal, and flour/In four truck loads/Out in the country/Drove to the farmers' homes/Two yards of clothing/Per one hundred pounds/Of feed, we would leave/By the truck load/Then head back to town.

(Chorus)

Once a year we put on/A great big show/With country gospel music/Played on the radio/Five pounds of flour/We gave away/While the people/They would cut a step/When the music played. (Chorus)

To care for other people/Is my stock and trade/Honesty and love/Works sixteen hour days/Everyday changes/But that's all right/From Farmers Feed & Supply/To Hall's Red & White. (Chorus)

6. Danny Garcia (spoken)
Collinsville, Alabama, pop. 1,429

My name is Danny Garcia. How you spell it is D-a-double-n-y, last name G-a-r-c-i-a, and I was born in Mexico in March--3/21/64. The first time I went to work in the chicken plant, I had never seen a place like that, whole bunch of chickens. They tell me, "Why do you know what to do?" And I say, "Well, I don't know how to do nothing," (they say) "We'll teach you how to do it." They gave me a knife and I said, "What am I going to do with that knife?" They say, "Cut some chickens." So they teach me how to do the cutting of chickens and everything. In two weeks, my hands, they were swollen, just like a frog, but I needed the job. I say I'm not going to let nobody down. I'm going to try my best to get this over.

7. Guadalajara, Mexico (Ballad of Danny Garcia)
Words: Larry Long with Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Coots' 6th grade class of Collinsville High School.

I started working/When I was eight/To help my family/Eleven brothers/Seven sisters/All working hard like me/With a table & tray/In the market/Earrings and watches I sold/All that I made/In Guadalajara/A week was 400 pesos.

(Chorus)
Guadalajara, Mexico/Guadalajara, Mexico/Buscando trabajo/Shelter from the rain/Guadalajara, Mexico.

My daddy worked/In California/ Harvesting the crop/forty-five years/Carrots & cabbage/Ten a day was tops/Eight hundred dollars/To cross the border/To the U.S. of A./Adios Guadalajara/Hola U.S. of A.

(Chorus)
Got me a job/At Taco Bell/Found me a wife/
Then off to Atlanta/To a chicken plant/
Where they gave me a knife/What am I to
do with this/Cut chickens up to fry/From
Atlanta to Guadalajara/With love from the
chicken line. (Chorus)

Now I work/At Cagle's plant/In Collinsville/
Two hundred dollars/A month we pay/Plus
gas & electric bills/We like it here/Even
though/Sometimes it rains and snows/
Merry Christmas/Guadalajara/Alabama,
Home Sweet Home. (Chorus)

8. Sally Goodin (Traditional)
   Instrumental
   On fiddle, Sabrina Williams of
   Oakman, AL

9. Mary Stuart (spoken)
   Camp Hill, Alabama, pop: 1,415

My name is Mary Stuart, and my birthday
is March 1, 1904. We had a Colored store.
Mr. James Hood used to have a dry goods
and grocery store, combined. Old Man
Sullivan used to have a long store. As long
as, almost, a freight train, just straight
back. And we had four churches, the
Universalists, the Methodists, the Baptists
and there was a Primitive Baptist church
across from the cemetery. They didn't have
enough membership to keep it going, so
they tore it down and made a cemetery out
of that. But we had a thriving little town
at one time. And it was a pleasure to live
here.

10. Old Camp Hill
   (Inspired by Mrs. Nora Milner,
   Mrs. Mary Stuart, Mrs. Ethel Earl,
   and Mrs. Delaris Williams.)
   Words: Larry Long with Mrs.
   Mennieje's 4th grade class of
   Edward Bell High School.

   I was born in Camp Hill/ Way back then the
   streets were filled/ With a wholesale house
   and a cotton gin/ Two hotels and a five and
   ten.

   (Chorus)
   Old Camp Hill, Old Camp Hill/Is
   where I live and always will.

   We had four trains that ran on time/With
   a clickety-clack it moved in rhyme/Should
   have heard that whistle blow/In Camp Hill
   long ago. (Chorus)

   Number One goes to Birmingham/Sounds
   like a marching band/Number Two comes
   on down/Back on to my home town.
   (Chorus)

   Number Three leaves at dawn/All aboard,
   come along/Number Four leaves at eight/
   Hurry up and don't be late. (Chorus)

   Number Five leaves after dark/And
   Number Six leaves at dawn/As a
   note/And Number Seven leaves at noon.

   Back in '29 when the stock market crashed/
   People back then had little cash/When the
   stock market tumbled to the ground/What
   will become of my little town?

   (Chorus)
   My little town, my little town/What
   will become of my little town/The
   only stock I owned was horses, pigs
   and cows/What will become of my
   little town?

   If you did not own, you left or share-
   cropper/The owner took half of everything
   you got/Plus the cost of seed that went
   in the ground/What will become of my
   little town? (Chorus)

   Just like the mines up on the hill/Just like
   the corn ground in the grist-mill/Just like a
   banjo without a sound/ What will become
   of my little town? (Chorus)

   Just like Round Mountain, just like Rock
   Run/That used to burn as hot as the sun/
   Just like Dirt Cellar, the oak is cut down/
What will become of my little town?
(Chorus)

Now there’s a slump in the sock mills/Now there’s a drought out in the fields/Where are the people, where are they bound/What will become of my little town? (Chorus)

13. Lily Mae Stewart (spoken & sung)
The Charming Black Mustache
(which she learned from her father as a young girl.)

My name is Lily Mae Stewart. I was born in 1904. That’s quite a while. I guess you know how old that makes me. I’m 90 years old.

Once, I had a charming beau/I loved him dear as life/I thought the time would surely come/When I would be his wife.

His pockets, they were filled with gold/And o’ he cut a dash/With a diamond ring, a watch and chain/And his charming black mustache.

He came to sing one Sunday/He stayed ‘til almost three./He said he never loved a girl/As well as he loved me.

He said we’d live in grandest style/For he had plenty of cash.
And then upon my lips he pushed/His charming black mustache.

There came along a sour old maid/She wore her weight in gold.
She had false teeth, she wore false hair/She was forty-five years old.
He cruelly deserted me/Just for that old maid’s cash.
And that’s the way I lost my beau/With the charming black mustache.

And now they live just over the street/In a mansion gray and old.
She married him for his black mustache/He married her for her gold.
So girls, remember my sad fate/And never be too rash.
And leave alone those stylish chaps/Who wear the black mustache.

14. Hard Times, Good Times in Coffee Springs (sung)
(Inspired by Mrs. Lottie Dauphin, Mrs. Thelma Couch, Mrs. Lisa Vaughan, and Mrs. Karen Cato)
Words: Larry Long
with Mrs. Tyson’s 5th grade of Coffee Springs School High School

We had nine stores/Two cotton gins/A pickle plant/With big round bins.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Good times here in Coffee Springs.

General Coffee/He once drove/A horse and buggy/In the groove.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Hard times here in Coffee Springs.

Where the Creek/Use to live/With their wives/With their kids.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Good times here in Coffee Springs.

The Blacks went here/The Whites went there/The cats and dogs/Went everywhere.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Hard times here in Coffee Springs.

Played baseball/In the park/Without fear/Of the dark.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Good times here in Coffee Springs.

A mule kicked/With his feet/We got bucked/Off our seat.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Hard times here in Coffee Springs.

All day long/Swatting flies/Sure feels good/To be alive.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Good times here in Coffee Springs.

The motel burned/One Friday night/All the people/Shook with fright.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Hard times here in Coffee Springs.

On that mule/We road home/Brushed it down/With a curry comb.
Walking and talking/Talking and walking/Good times here in Coffee Springs.

15. Karen Cato (spoken)
Coffee Springs, Al., pop.:294

It gives me a great privilege to talk about the old times, what I know. I’m not that old, but I’m still old, and I’m thankful for it. Because there is so many short graves, so many medium sized graves, and I’m thankful the Lord has spared me to stay here. I’ll soon be sixty years old. I count it a blessing.
16. I Will Sing Alleluia, Oh Lord
(sung)
Performed by the Centerview
Youth Choir from Camp Hill,
Alabama
(They learned this song from a
Junior College student.)

(Chorus)
I will sing, Alleluia/I will sing, O’ Lord/I will
sing, Alleluia, O’ Lord/You are the source of
my supply/Lord, I pray, you will lift me
high/I will sing, Alleluia, O’ Lord.(repeat)

He’s given us/He has given us fields and
mountains/He’s given us/He has given us
level plains/He’s given us/He has given us
food and clothing/He’s given us/Shelter from
the storm and the rain.

(Repeat Chorus)

17. Atha Thacker (spoken)
Good Springs, Alabama, pop.: 450

—This is Landon Waid and Brandon
Morris interviewing Mr. Atha Thacker.
—How old are you now, Mr. Thacker?
—I’m 87 years and ten months.
—What made you want to go in and work
at the mines?

—Well, I had to. There was not much work
you could get. We had to. After my
Momma died, my Daddy had to keep us up,
and there was four of us, and we was too
young to work and make a living ourselves,
and he couldn’t take care of us at home and
work in the mines too. I had to help him
any way I could to try to make a living.
—How many years did you work in the
mines?
—I gone 31 years evidence that I got on my
social security. Black lung and what have you.

18. Hey Coal Miner (sung)
(Inspired by Mr. Atha Thacker)
Words: Larry Long with Mrs.
Side’s 6th grade class of T. W.
Martin High School with
assistance from Mr. Jason Roe.

A coal miner’s job is never done/Works
down in the ground away from the sun/
Been a coal miner since he was young/Hey
coil miner!

From the Little to the Big Pratt/With a
carbide lamp stuck to his hat/Digging for
coal for the steam plant/Hey coal miner!

(Chorus)

19. Dana Williams and Lillian
Diehl (spoken)
Oakman, Alabama, pop.: 846

—I’m Dana Williams, I was born October
6, 1919.
—Now tell something Dana, don’t tell me
you don’t know nothing! (Lillian)
—Well, being I’m not as old as you are,
you know more than I do. But we had to
rub the clothes on a rub board. (Dana)
—Yeah, I meant to bring a rub board,
and I forgot. (Lillian)
—I haven’t got one, I don’t know what
happened to mine. And then, if it was
cold weather, we had to take an axe and
cut the ice out and put it in a pot and
melt it to wash the clothes with. We had
a bar of soap to wash it with—old
Octagon soap. We didn’t have no
washing powders. And you had to cut
that soap up and put it in the wash pot
to make your suds like they use now for
when they have powders—Tide and all
those expensive powders that people use.
And we had wrung our clothes on the
clothesline and that bleached the white
clothes. Now you have to buy bleach to
put in it and make some more money
for someone else, you know. (Dana)
20. Wash Day Is Every Day (sung)
   (Inspired by Mrs. Ruby Lee Banks Walton, Mrs. Lillian Diehl, Mrs. Dana Williams, and Mr. William Sammy Walton)
   Words: Larry Long with Mrs. Jane Moss Robert's 6th grade of Oakman Elementary.

Pour ashes into the hopper/When the hopper gets full/Pour the water down/Pick up the lye, into the bucket/When you pick up the bucket/Don't spill it on the ground.

(Chorus)
Wash Day is every day/Every day is wash day/Wash day is every day/Wash it on down.

Put the fat of the hog meat/Into the pot/Mix it with the lye/Cook it all around/Pour it in the tub/When it turns white/For a couple of days/Then soap yourself down. (Chorus)

With a big old tank/Collect rain water/Pack up the clothes/Head to the spring/With a pot and tub/Boil the water/In the winter time/The clothes do freeze. (Chorus)

21. Ezra Cunningham (spoken)
   Beattie, Alabama, pop.: 454

My name is Ezra Cunningham. I was born May 4, 1917 at 4 p.m. How many of you made history yesterday? You made history yesterday? Sure enough? Now wait a minute. Somebody's holding a hand up saying they did, and somebody's shaking their head and saying they didn't make no history yesterday. Everybody in here made history yesterday. Because yesterday passed and it is gone, and whatever happened is in the past, that's history. But, when we come to school, we generally think about history as what we see in a book. But you see, you can't put all history in a book. So you got a lot of history that is not in the book that is valuable. And sometimes it is more valuable than the history that is in the book. Now, didn't nobody write about what you did yesterday, so that is not written history. It's what we call oral history.

22. Way Down Yonder in the White Man's Field (sung)
   (Inspired by Mrs. Irene Marshall)
   Words: Larry Long with Mrs. Farris & Mrs. Beal's 5th grade of Beattie Elementary.

The truck would come at 2 a.m./To take us back to the field again/Fifty cents a hundred is what we got paid/Sometimes we picked two hundred and that's all we made.

(Chorus)
Way down yonder in the White man's field/Way down yonder in the White man's field/Never made enough to pay my bills/Way down yonder in the White man's field.

Full of caterpillars on the leaves/Jumping and popping, I could not believe/Just like ants on meat skin/Had to keep right on a working to get home again. (Chorus)

Look at the cotton and not the worms/Never got paid for what I earned/The cotton was heavy on my back/But the scale was light when he dropped the sack. (Chorus)

Three at the foot and three at the head/A pallet on the floor for my bed/All we had to eat was a guinea knot/And a glass of water was all we got. (Chorus)

October, November, picked velvet beans/Didn't make enough to buy kerosene/Had to cut splinters to get some light/To do homework late into the night. (Chorus)

23. Lewis Martin, Jr. (spoken)
   Camp Hill, Alabama, born 1923

I never would have dreamed that I would've even seen a day in the days that I'm in now to see how young people could go back and make a sketch out of what I said the other day. And I'm glad that God has saw fit for our young peoples, Black and White, a better way in the world today to come. And I'm just happy. I could cry.

24. I Know My Redeemer Lives (sung)
   (From the Original Sacred Harp, Denson Revision/1971 Edition/Sacred Harp Publishing Company)
   Performed by the Sacred Harp Singers of Camp Hill, Alabama

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day
25. Bill Godwin  
(spooken)  
Rome Community, AL pop. unknown

--I don't believe you can put it on this.  
--Go slow.  
--All right, Willie Mae Lawrence Manuel  
Christopher Holmes Peter U. Catwat  
Waterson Jones Abraham Lincoln McDeese  
McClements Parker McGugien  
Godwin Esquire/Not a hog thief or a liar

My daddy he did wear/A number 13 shoe size/Yet the shoes they were too small/To keep him standing. (Chorus)

After my daddy died/Moved in with my Grandmother/Lord, she was so strict/She made us hug and kiss one another. (Chorus)

Soon my Mom did wed/A gentleman farmer/Who taught us how to bleed/A hog in the slaughter. (Chorus)

26. Not a Hog Thief or a Liar (sung)  
(Ballad of Bill Godwin)  
Words: Larry Long with Mrs.  
Rails' 4th grade of Pleasant Home School.

My Daddy was a guard/At the Stallworth Stockade/He tripped rolled down a hill/And his gun exploded.

(Chorus)
Willie Mae Lawrence Manuel/Christopher Holmes/Peter U. Catwat Watsoner Jones/Abraham Lincoln McDeese/McCrow 
McClements Parker/McGugien Godwin Esquire/Not a hog thief or a liar

When we had food to eat/That preaching Circuit Rider/Would sometimes stay for a week/To have a gospel revival. (Chorus)

Lord, I love to hear/That Circuit Rider.

27. Gladys Milton (spoken)  
Lockhart, Alabama, pop.: 484

I'm Gladys Milton and I was born May 26, 1924, which makes me not old, but I've been living quite a little while. Now I was trained to hold him up by the heels and give him a swat, but as the years went by the feeling has changed about that. Isn't that a bad way to enter into the hemisphere; held up by the heels with a swack? If you think about that, that's a little cruel. So now, when he is born and we have a receiving blanket and stuff there for him—if he go on and cry, he won't get that spanking anymore. But if he doesn't cry, he still going to get it. So sometimes I look at one and I say, "Alright boy, you'd better let me hear some music here or you're going to get that spanking, you know." But most of them—see, we don't use sedation so our babies aren't sedated; so the minute they're born, they usually let out. I say like Wayne King's music; the sweetest music this side of heaven is a newborn baby crying and you know he's all right. I don't think there is anybody that don't light up when that happens. That's a beautiful thing, a beautiful experience. Sometimes I wish you could see it.

28. Why Not Me, Lord (sung)  
(Balled of Gladys Milton)  
Words: Larry Long with Mrs. Elmore's 5th grade class of W.S. Harlan School.

Mother was 15 when she had me/Stayed with my aunt, who was once a midwife/Inside an old trunk filled with her keepsakes/I found a book with God's plan for my life.

(Chorus)
Why not me, Lord/If you count me worthy/Why not me, Lord/If you'll give me strength/Why not me, Lord/If you count me worthy/Why not me/Why not me.

One thing I like better than fishing one time/is fishing two time, you know that it's true/Fishing is waiting, waiting is fishing/God has a plan for both me and for you. (Chorus)
All of these children, all of them happy/For one another. How can it be? Babies come out whenever they want to. Make sure your house is always kept clean. (Chorus)

Give me the hands to carry the children/Out of the darkness into the light/Give me the love to carry the children/Give me the faith to be your midwife. (Chorus)

29. Walter Frederick Browder (spoken)

What I say to you is to do as well as you can on your schooling. You may need it someday, not necessarily to make a living but to make a life. That's about it.

About the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative

The PACERS Small Schools Cooperative is an association of 28 public schools located in 24 communities in rural Alabama. With funds from the Lyndhurst Foundation, the Cooperative was organized by the Program for Rural Services and Research (PRSR) at the University of Alabama as a means for small rural public schools to share resources and demonstrate their viability and potential. The member schools include kindergarten through twelfth grades and are demographically and ethnically representative of rural Alabama.

Also available through the Cooperative:

Here I Stand Curriculum Guidebook (Fall 1996)
By Jim Fanning and Larry Long

Here I Stand Song Book (Winter 1997)
By Larry Long
Featuring 44 collectively written songs with the youth and leaders of rural Alabama.

To learn more about the PACERS Small Schools Cooperative visit their website at http://www.pacers.org or write:
PACERS Cooperative
The University of Alabama
Box 570372
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, U.S.A.
35487
(205)348-6432 (voice)
music@pacers.org (E-Mail)

About Larry Long:
Larry Long is a musician, community organizer, father, and educator. Studs Terkel calls him "a true American troubadour." Larry has organized farmer-controlled markets in Tennessee; a movement to clean up the upper Mississippi River; the first hometown tribute to Woody Guthrie celebrated together with school children in Okemah, Oklahoma. He is also the recipient of the prestigious Bush Artists Fellowship. For the past several years, he has been developing and presenting an inter-generational curriculum, mixing oral history and song writing within a traditional educational structure. Currently Larry is a consultant to PACERS Small Schools Cooperative, a program sponsored by the University of Alabama, intended to develop new and improved curricula for rural schools. Here I Stand is a document of his work with PACERS.

Larry has released numerous cassettes and compact discs on various labels during his twenty year recording and performing career:

Living in a Rich Man's World
Atomic Theory AFD1114 (1995)
The Psalms
Stellar S1001 (1995)
Troubadour
Flying Fish FF 70528 (1992)

It Takes a Lot of People
(Tribute to Woody Guthrie)
Featuring Larry Long & the Children of Oklahoma
Flying Fish FF 70508 (1988)

Sweet Thunder
Flying Fish FF430 (1987)
Run for Freedom
Flying Fish FF 346 (1985)
Hauling Freight, No Fences
by Barry Kimm & Larry Long
Documentary and music video about the life of Gerald Johanneck, an 86-year-old truck driver from Wabasso, Minnesota.

To contact Larry Long:
Box 581601
Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A.
55458-1601
long@tt.net (E-Mail)

Credits
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About Smithsonian/Folkways:
Folkways Records was founded by Moses Asche and Marion Distler in 1948 to document music, spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. In the ensuing decades, New York-based Folkways became one of the largest independent record labels in the world, reaching a total of nearly 2,200 albums that were always kept in print.

The Smithsonian Institution acquired Folkways from the Asche estate in 1987 to ensure that the sounds and genius of the artists would be preserved for future generations. All Folkways recordings are now available on high quality audio cassettes, each packaged in a special box along with the original liner notes.

Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings was formed to continue the Folkways tradition of releasing significant recordings with high quality documentation. It produces new titles, reissues of historic recordings from Folkways and other record labels, and in collaboration with other companies also produces instructional videotapes, recordings to accompany published books, and a variety of other educational projects.

The Smithsonian/Folkways, Folkways, Cook, and Paredon record labels are administered by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklore Programs & Cultural Studies. They are one of the means through which the Center supports the work of traditional artists and expresses its commitment to cultural diversity, education, and increased understanding.

You can find Smithsonian Folkways Recordings at your local record store. Smithsonian/Folkways, Folkways, Cook, and Paredon recordings are all available through:

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For free catalogue, write:
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Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560
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fax (202) 287-3699
Freedom, Oh Freedom

be the dream I dream.

up to be all I can be.

Smithsonian/Folkways

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
Center for Folklife Programs & Cultural Studies
955 L'Enfant Plaza Suite 2600
Washington DC 20560
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