

Index to Sections

1. MAINE WILLIAMS HITS	5 04	O. GULDEN WEWUKIES OF THE 40S	1/1
2. NEW COUNTRY CLASSICS	24	6. WESTERN CLASSICS	169
3. COUNTRY HITS OF THE '60s	47	7. ALL-TIME OLD-TIME FAVORITES	199
4. COUNTRY HITS OF THE '50s	75	8. THE TOUCH OF GOD'S HAND	235
	_		
Index to the Songs			
Alabama Jubilee	228	Just Because	115
All I Have to Do Is Dream	106	Kentucky Waltz	126
Any Time	138	Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'	44
Are You from Dixie?	202	Last Round-Up, The	180
	190	Legend in My Time, (I'd Be) A	98
Back in the Saddle Again	148	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	208
Beautiful Brown Eyes	109	Letter Edged in Black, The	68
Blue Suede Shoes		Little Green Apples	246
Bonaparte's Retreat	150	Love Lifted Me	13
Born to Lose	152	Lovesick Blues	24
Bye Bye Love	92	Lucille	60
Can the Circle Be Unbroken	220	Make the World Go Away	90
Candy Kisses	161	Midnight	225
Careless Kisses	164	Mountain Dew	
Casey Jones (The Brave Engineer)	232	My Daddy Is Only a Picture	140 72
Cigareetes, Whusky and Wild, Wild Women	133	My Last Date (with You)	95
Cold, Cold Heart	16 172	Oh, Lonesome Me	196
Deep in the Heart of Texas	32	Ole Faithful The	204
Delta Dawn		One Rose (That's Left in My Heart), The	216
Detroit City	50 186	Orange Blossom Special	156
Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Phys	35	Pistol Packin' Mama	130
Don't I of the Store Cot in Your Free		Please Help Me, I'm Falling	62
Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes	178	(in Love with You)	230
El Paso	64 176	Prisoner's Song, The	78
Empty Saddles Flowers on the Wall	55	Release Me	193
Folsom Prison Blues	102	Riders in the Sky	58
Fraulein	88	(I Never Promised You a) Rose Garden	38
Gambler, The	28	Send Me the Pillow You Dream On	100
Gentle on My Mind	52	Shall We Gather at the River?	242
Half As Much	22	Singing the Blues	75
He Touched Me	244	Sioux City Sue	158
Hey, Good Lookin'	5	Slipping Around	128
His Hands	240	Someday (You'll Want Me to Want You)	146
Home on the Range	184	Tennessee Waltz	124
I Can't Help It (If I'm Still in Love with You)	8	Thank God I'm a Country Boy	41
I Can't Stop Loving You	85	This Ole House	249
I Don't Hurt Anymore	118	Touch of God's Hand, The	238
I Love You Because	154	Tumbling Tumbleweeds	174
I Love You So Much It Hurts	136	Wabash Cannonball, The	218
If You've Got the Money (I've Got the Time)	112	Wagon Wheels	169
I'll Never Slip Around Again	130	Walking the Floor Over You	143
I'm Movin' On	80	Waterloo	104
I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes	222	Welcome to My World	47
In the Jailhouse Now	211	When It's Springtime in the Rockies	206
It Makes No Difference Now	199	White Sport Coat (and a Pink Carnation), A	82
Jambalaya (On the Bayou)	19	Wings of a Dove	235
Jealous Heart	121	Wreck of the Old 97, The	214
Just a Little Lovin' (Will Go a Long Way)	166	Your Cheatin' Heart	10
		ntry Music Hall of Fame 252	

Introduction

n 1924, an early "hillbilly" recording of Vernon Dalhart's versions of "The Prisoner's Song" and "The Wreck of the Old 97" became the best-selling pre-electric Victor record, proving that country music had great appeal outside the Southeastern states where it was born. Both songs are in this book:

More than five decades later, Kenny Rogers' 1978 recording of "The Gambler" became a million-seller, rose high on the pop charts and inspired a television movie. The words and music to "The Gambler" are also in this book.

All three songs are alive today — playable, singable, enjoyable — because they have become country classics. Often sung, not so often recorded, studied by performers and songwriters, known and loved by all who are country fans and many who are not, these songs — with the 92 other tunes in this book — among the thousands and thousands of songs written and recorded during those 50-odd years have survived to attain a kind of immortality.

When the editors of the Reader's Digest began planning the Country and Western Songbook, the selection of "classic" country and Western songs was often discussed. Hundreds of songs were considered and discarded. But the final judgment was made on the basis of popularity — popularity as defined by the frequency with which songs have been requested by our readers.

Therefore, this is *your* songbook. You can be proud of the selection, just as we are proud to present it here.

This songbook is country and Western music. It samples many eras — from the turn of the century to the present. Here are the parlor songs of the early 1900s, the first commercial favorites of the 1920s, the railroading and prison songs so popular in the '30s, the lost-love and cheating songs of the '40s, the ballads and rockabilly hits of the '50s, the saga songs and novelties of the '60s and, finally, the more mature and even philosophical products of the '70s.

An entire section, Section 1, is devoted to songs either written or made popular (usually both) by Hank Williams, whom many consider to be the greatest singer and songwriter in country music history. Another, Section 6, draws on the Western classics that via films and recordings made Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and The Sons of the Pioneers latter-day American heroes.

And what selection of country and Western music would be complete without a segment, like Section 8, devoted to sacred songs?

Musically, the songs in this book are among the most memorable in all of country music. Some go beyond the traditional three-chord changes that country songwriters prefer, but they don't stray far from a simple guitar or piano accompaniment.

Here are ballads, bluegrass, honky-tonk and Western styles, sacred melodies and mournful tunes filled with loneliness and self-pity. In short, the entire range of human emotions finds expression in this book.

Yet even more important than the music are the lyrics, for country music is first and foremost a lyric music. Basically, a country songwriter is a storyteller, and one criterion of a classic country song is that it tells a good story, often with a twist and always within the commercial discipline of the three-minute single record.

Nothing happens until a songwriter sets pen to paper, and even the greatest country star owes a debt—a debt freely acknowledged—to the writers. And here are some of the best narrative efforts in the literature of country music. If you have doubts, read through a song like Bob Nolan's "The Touch of God's Hand," Roger Bowling and Hal Bynum's "Lucille" or Leon Payne's "I Love You Because" just as you would a poem and see how well the lyric stands up without a lavish arrangement, or even a melody.

In this book are some of the best-remembered and most-requested country songs. They are such because they invariably tell tales of the human condition — sad stories, flippant ones, sentimental ones, deeply religious ones. And as a result, each song strikes a different but universal chord in each of us.

For this, we are indebted to the songwriters of country music. Many of the writers whose work appears here, people like Hank Williams, Marty Robbins, Mel Tillis, Hank Snow and Pee Wee King, are household names. Others, like Zeke Clements, Jenny Lou Carson, Redd Stewart and Slim Willet, are practically unknown outside the country music community, but within that community they are regarded with awe.

Each of the 95 songs in this book has an interesting lyric, and many were inspired by equally interesting incidents or circumstances. The editors have tried to provide additional insight into each song in the annotations that accompany the words and music, whenever possible using the songwriter's own words. We're sure

that you'll find these little stories just as rich and varied

as the songs themselves.

Overall, you, the reader, have chosen well in selecting

songs for the *Country and Western Songbook*. They are well-balanced as to tempo, subject matter, complexity and even time period. No songbook could ever contain *all* of the great country songs, but you'll find many, many favorites here, whether you're a dedicated country

fan — or someone who simply loves all kinds of music.

Putting this book together was great fun, for which we thank all of you who have written to us to tell us your favorites. We hope you enjoy using it as much as we did producing it.

A Note on the Arrangements

Guitar -

(Capo up

3 frets)

Keyboard→ C

All musical arrangements in this book are new. Dan Fox, who is responsible for the skillful settings in all of our Reader's Digest songbooks (did you know that there are seven others, by the way?), has magically removed any obstacles to your immediate enjoyment of these songs. You'll find that they are easy to play and at the same time sound stylish and highly professional. They make you feel good about your own playing ability.

Players of C-melody instruments including violin, flute, recorder, oboe, accordion and harmonica can read directly from the piano-organ systems—the melody notes in the treble clef are those with the stems turned up (unless the line stands alone without harmony notes), while the harmony notes have stems turned down. The small notes in the bass clef, those with stems turned down, are organ pedal notes. These should not be attempted by pianists or by players of small, simple chord organs.

Note that in most instances, for easier playing, the bass lines move stepwise and stay within an octave.

People who have studied the chordal approach to pop piano may want to use the melody line and "fake" their own left-hand accompaniment, using the chord symbols. These same chord symbols can serve

bass players, both string and brass; just play the root note of each chord, except where another note is indicated (for example, "G/D bass"). Piano accordionists also can use the chord symbols for the buttons played with the left hand, while, with the right hand on the keyboard, they can play the treble portion of each arrangement as written.

And for those who like to sing along . . . in any

song with more than two stanzas, a tinted band runs through each alternate line, making it easy to keep your eyes on the proper place when singing.

A special note to guitarists

Dadd9

Fadd9

As most of its fans know, country music is guitar players' music. It is for this reason that Dan Fox, himself an accomplished guitarist, has taken special care to see that the arrangements in this book sound *good* on guitar and are also easy to play. In most cases, the songs are in easy keys for guitar, such as C, G and D. However, because of vocal ranges, it has been necessary to put some in keys such as F, Bb and Eb. Where that occurs, special chord diagrams and symbols in italics are printed directly above the usual keyboard chord symbols.

If you're playing guitar without any other accompaniment, use the guitar symbols and diagrams only. If you want to play along with a piano

or organ, use a capo. Most country guitar players are well acquainted with this device which, when clamped across one of the frets of the guitar, raises the pitch of the entire instrument a half step, a full step or more. In those songs where a capo is required, we indicate at the beginning of the arrangement where to

place it. (See the example at left.) In this way, you can play the guitar in, as shown here, the key of A, yet — because the capo is clamped across the third fret — you sound in the higher key of C, the same key in which the pianist or organist is playing.

As you can see, an entire country band can play from the arrangements in our songbook. So now let's all join in and have a country-good time.

— THE EDITORS



SECTION ONE Pages 5-23 HANK WILLIAMS HITS



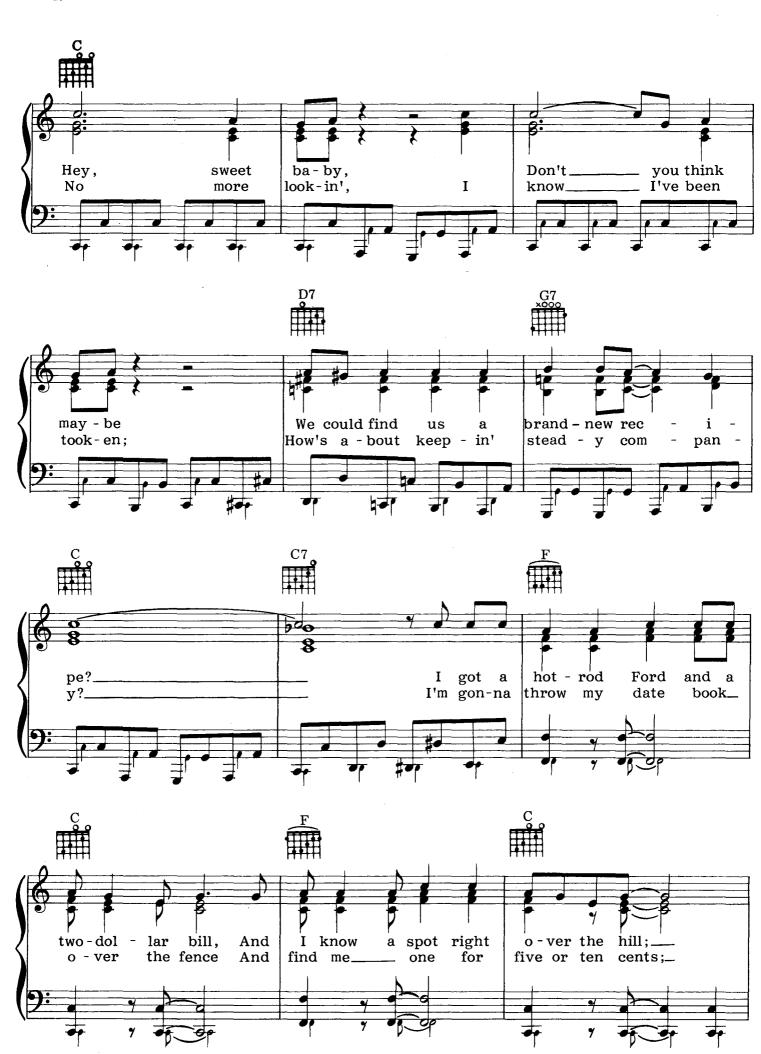
Around the time that Hank Williams wrote this song, he was a member of Dudley LeBlanc's memorable "Hadacol Caravan," a touring promotional show for a patent medicine. That summer of 1951, Hank, at 27, was at the peak of his career, and his records appeared on both the pop and country charts. "Hey, Good Lookin' " anticipated rock and roll, with its upbeat

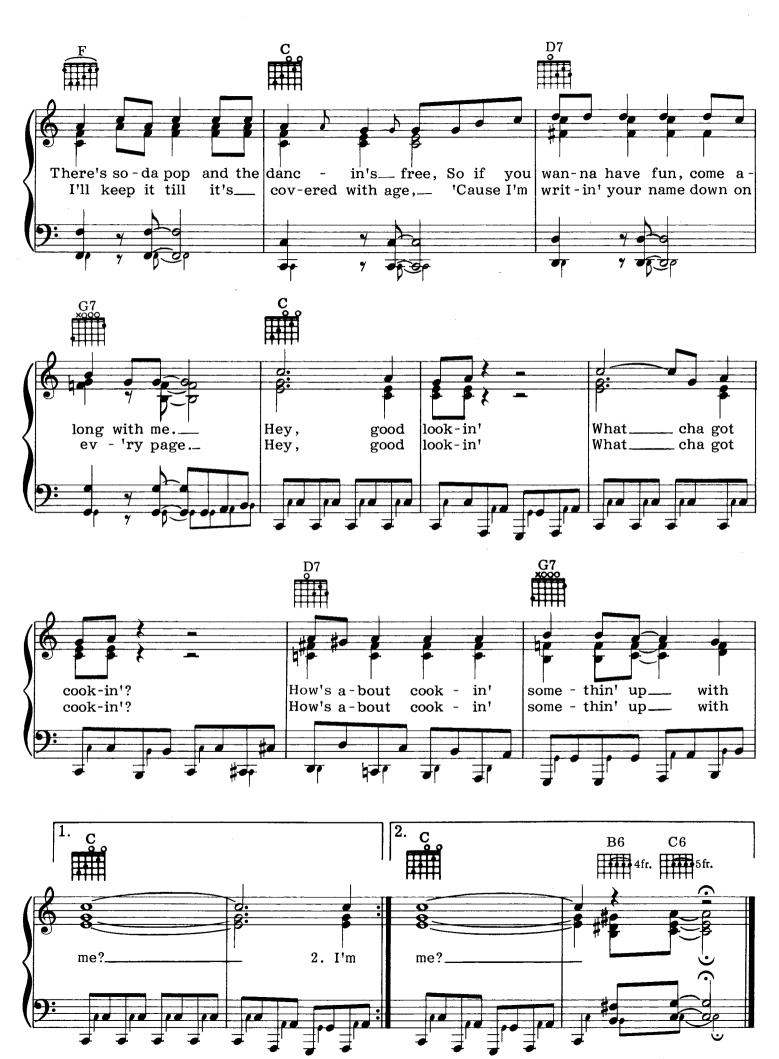
GOOD LOO

Words and Music by Hank Williams

tempo and teenage slang phrases, but its sentiment is pure country. Next to "Cold, Cold Heart," it was Hank's biggest song that year, reaching the No. 2 spot in popularity and retaining it for almost half a year. "Hey, Good Lookin' " enjoyed another brief spurt of popularity 20 years later, in 1971, when it was used as part of the sound track of the film The Last Picture Show.





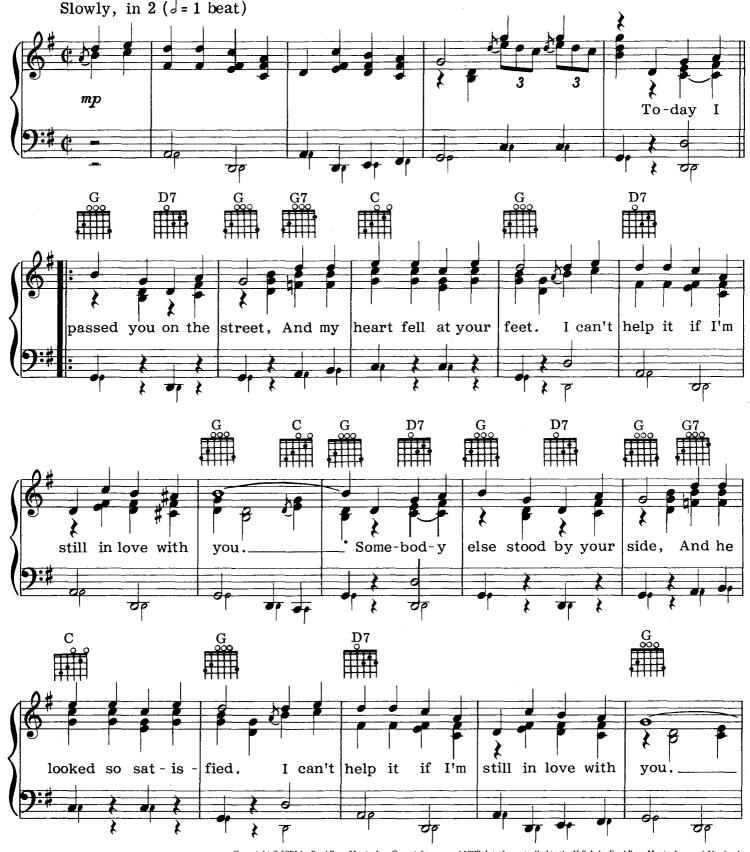


Dan't Pelp t

(If I'm Still in Love with You)

Fresh from his success with "Cold, Cold Heart," Hank Williams turned his hand and voice to another self-pitying, unrequited-love song, "I Can't Help It (If I'm Still in Love with You)." Released in mid-1951, Hank's version became a Top Ten recording but a short-lived one. Still, the song has survived to become a country standard and provided a hit recording for pop singer Linda

Ronstadt in 1974. Like much of Hank's material, "I Can't Help It" undoubtedly grew directly out of his troubled relationship with his first wife, Audrey — a partnership that ended in divorce a little over a year after he wrote the song. Though Hank was riding the crest of popularity at the time he wrote this, the strain of his marriage and career and his bouts with liquor were already taking their toll.



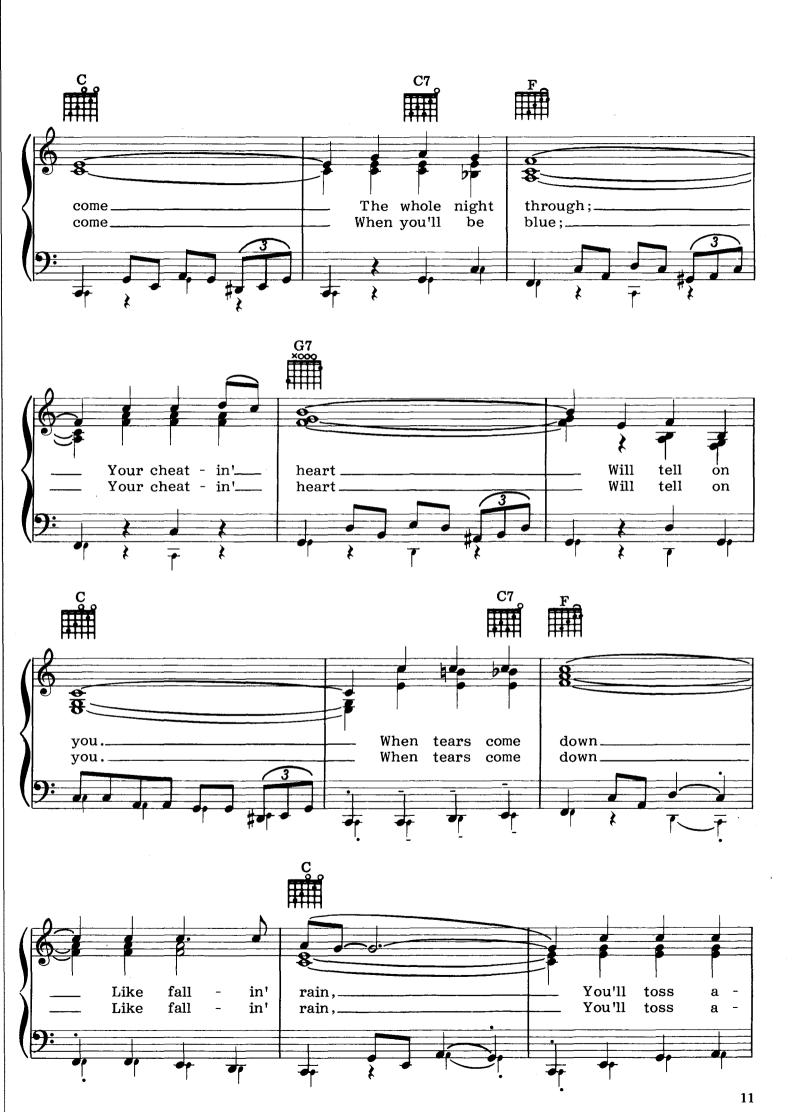




Words and Music by Hank Williams

By the early summer of 1952, Hank Williams' turbulent marriage to Audrey had ended. Hank and his fiancée, Billie Jean Eshlimar, were driving to Louisiana to tell her parents of their engagement when the discussion turned to his problems with his ex-wife. Billie Jean recalled that he swore that one day her "cheatin' heart" would pay. "Then he said, 'Hey, that'd make a good song! Get out my tablet, baby; you and I are gonna write us a song.' Just about as fast as I could write, Hank quoted the words to me in a matter of minutes." Hank recorded "Your Cheatin' Heart" that September at his last formal recording session in Nashville. The record was released — posthumously — in early 1953. Hank had died of a combination of drugs and alcohol on New Year's Day, at the age of 29. It immediately topped the country music polls. Though Hank probably never performed the song in public, it has come to be closely associated with the tragic figure that country fans knew and loved. It is one of his simplest lyrics, but it speaks eloquently in a language that all of us can feel.

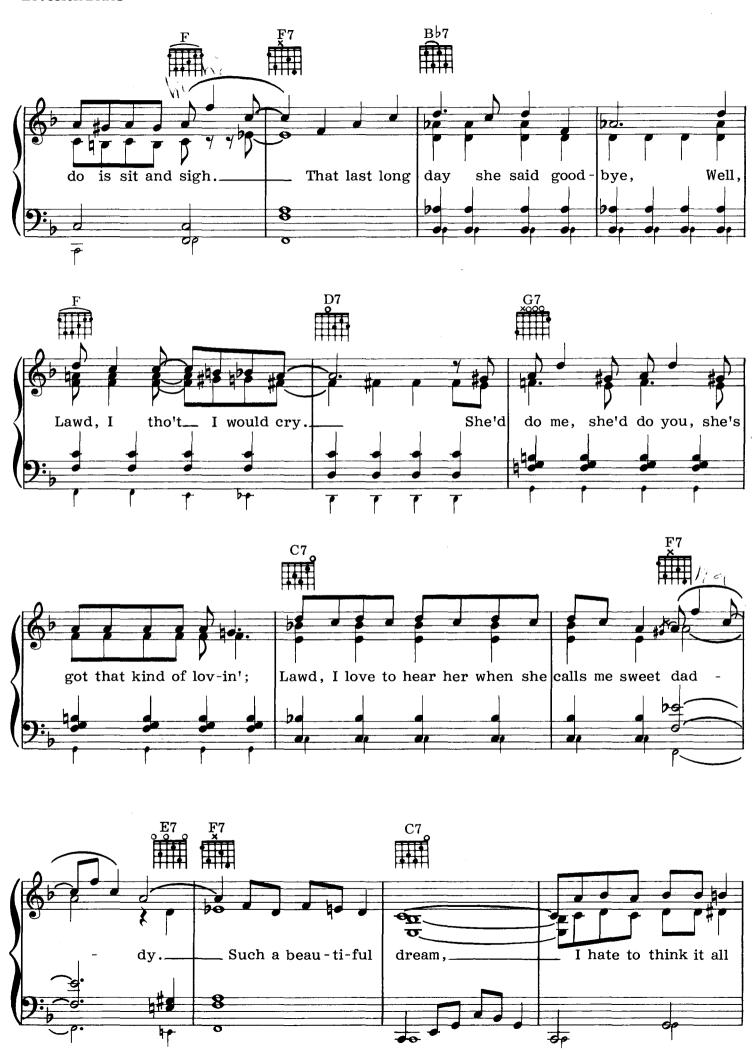








Lovesick Blues





COLD, COLD HEART

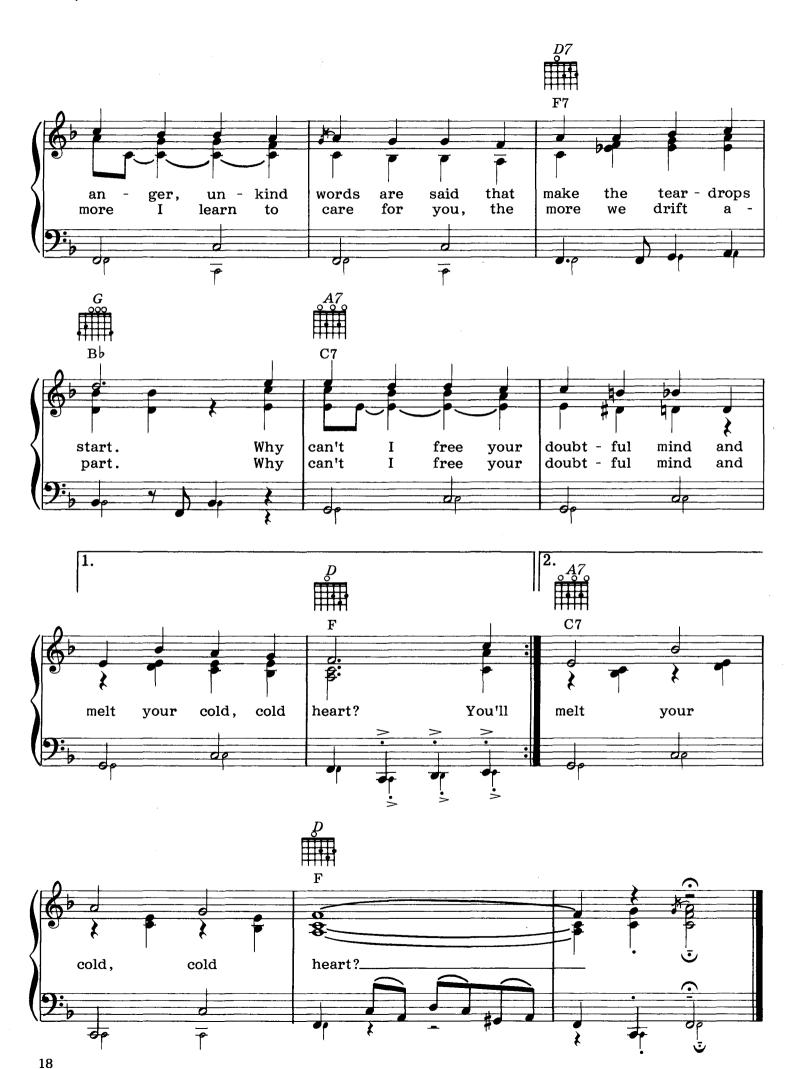
Words and Music by Hank Williams

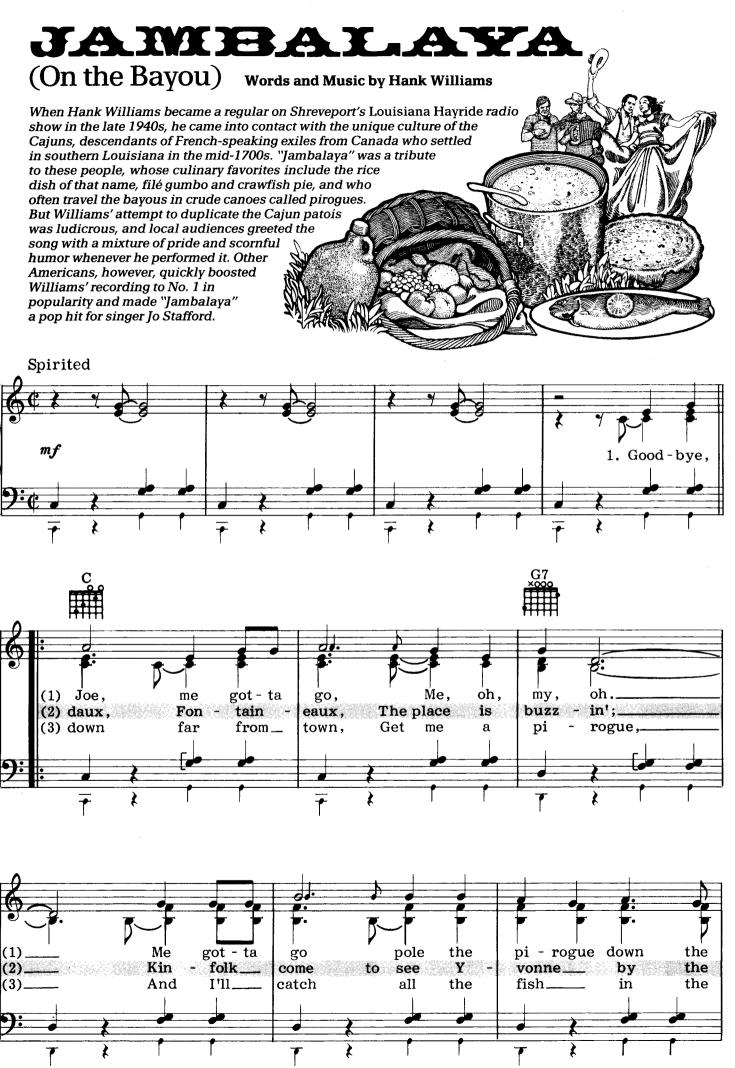
According to Audrey Williams, Hank's first wife, the inspiration for this song grew out of one of their all-too-frequent quarrels. Confined to a hospital bed for a minor ailment, Audrey received a visit from Hank and their two children and a gift from Hank — her first fur coat. This peace offering didn't work, however, and she refused to speak to her husband throughout the visit. On the ride home, Hank complained to their housekeeper, "She's got the coldest heart I've ever seen." That night, he sat down and wrote what was to become the biggest hit of his lifetime and his own personal favorite among the 100 or more songs he wrote. Recorded just before Christmas in

1950, it dominated the country charts during 1951 and received Billboard magazine's nod as the year's best-selling country record. Hank's publisher, Fred Rose, saw "Cold, Cold Heart" as Williams' key to the popular market and dispatched his son, Wesley, to take it around to the pop record companies. Time after time it was judged as "nothing but a hillbilly song," until Rose approached Mitch Miller, who then headed Columbia's pop music division. Miller took the song and placed it with an aspiring young singer named Tony Bennett. Bennett's 1951 recording sold over a million copies and launched Bennett as a singer and Williams as a popular songwriter.













Words and Music by Curley Williams



Although Curley Williams' band, a Western-swing outfit called the Georgia Peach Pickers, laughed when they first heard Curley play his latest song, "Half As Much," he didn't become discouraged. He recorded the song at the radio station in Anniston, Alabama, where the band was playing, and sent it to music publisher Fred Rose, who immediately sensed a hit. Curley's version was released in November 1951, but Christmas songs and a strike at the record-pressing plant limited its success. Rosemary Clooney's pop rendition fared much better, and when Hank Williams' recording was released in April 1952, it made the Top Ten and remained on the country charts for four months.



^{*}Keyboard players release A after 1st beat.





SECTION TWO Pages 24-46 EW COUNTRY CLASSICS





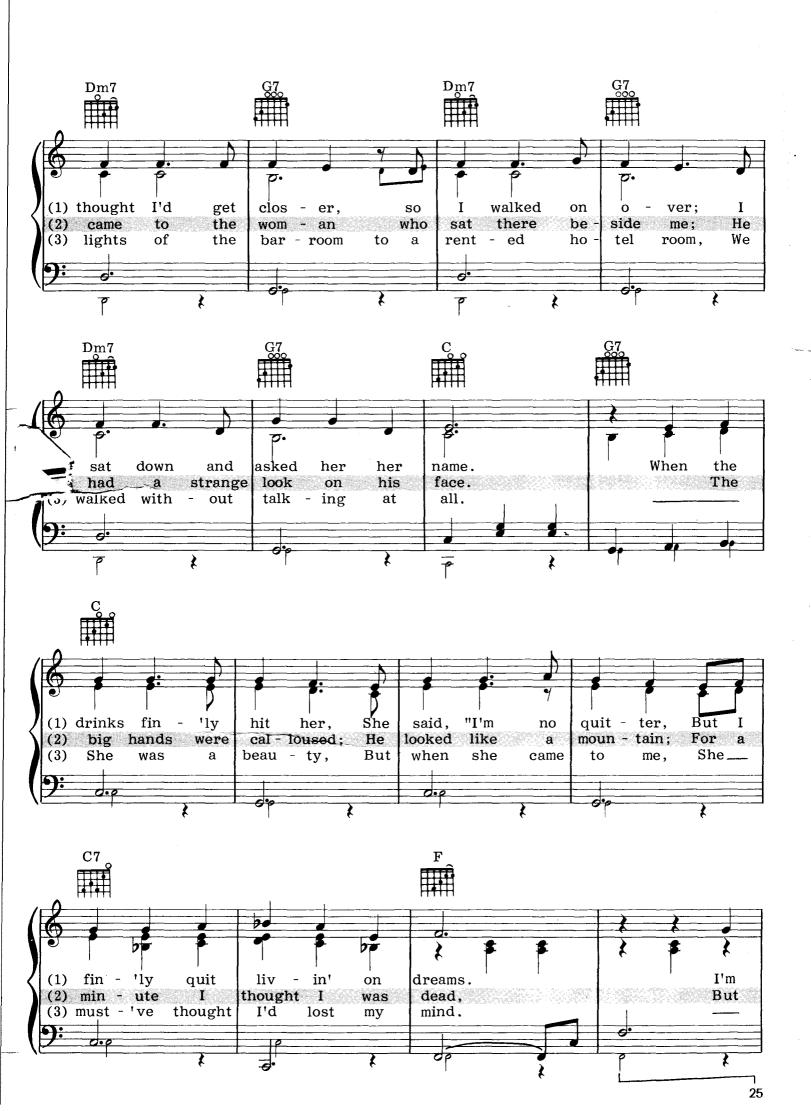
Lucille

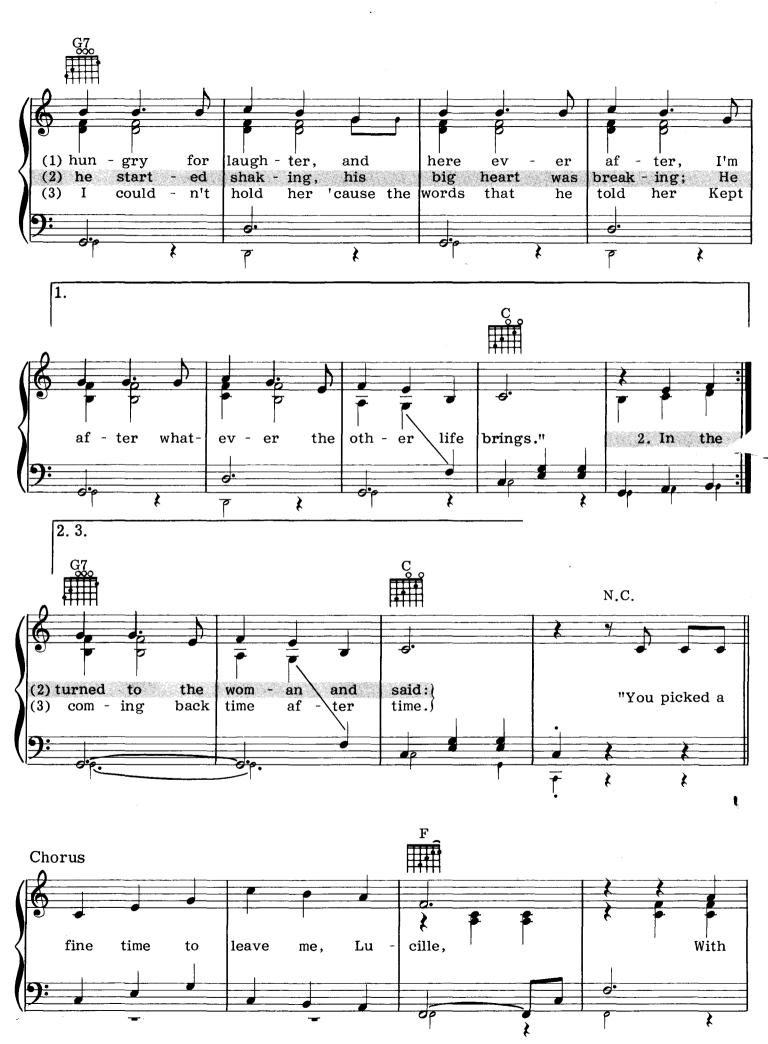
Words and Music by Roger Bowling and Hal Bynum

Hal Bynum's determination to resist temptation inspired "Lucille." Toward the end of his failing marriage, he was being pursued by his wife's girl friend. One day, when his wife and children were about to visit his mother-in-law in New Jersey, he was in his yard, tying up tomato plants and regretting that he'd be left alone in Nashville with a predatory female breathing down his neck. "You picked a fine time to leave me," he thought of his wife and tagged "Lucille" onto the line for alliteration. Then, looking around his garden, he added, "With four hungry children and a crop in the field." Roger Bowling helped Hal finish the song, which was a hit for Kenny Rogers in 1977.











THE GAMBL

Words and Music by Don Schlitz

After starting work on three songs one afternoon in 1976, Don Schlitz completed two of them in two hours, but he didn't finish the third, "The Gambler," until six weeks later. He wrote the song in memory of his father, "the best man I ever knew." "He wasn't a gambler," Schlitz says. "But the song was my way of dealing with the relationship that I had with him." Kenny Rogers made "The Gambler" a hit two years later.

ВЬ

sleep,

В

bore-dom o-ver-

Till

Ŝο

 \mathbf{F}

took us,

train bound for

no-where,

On a

eve-nin',

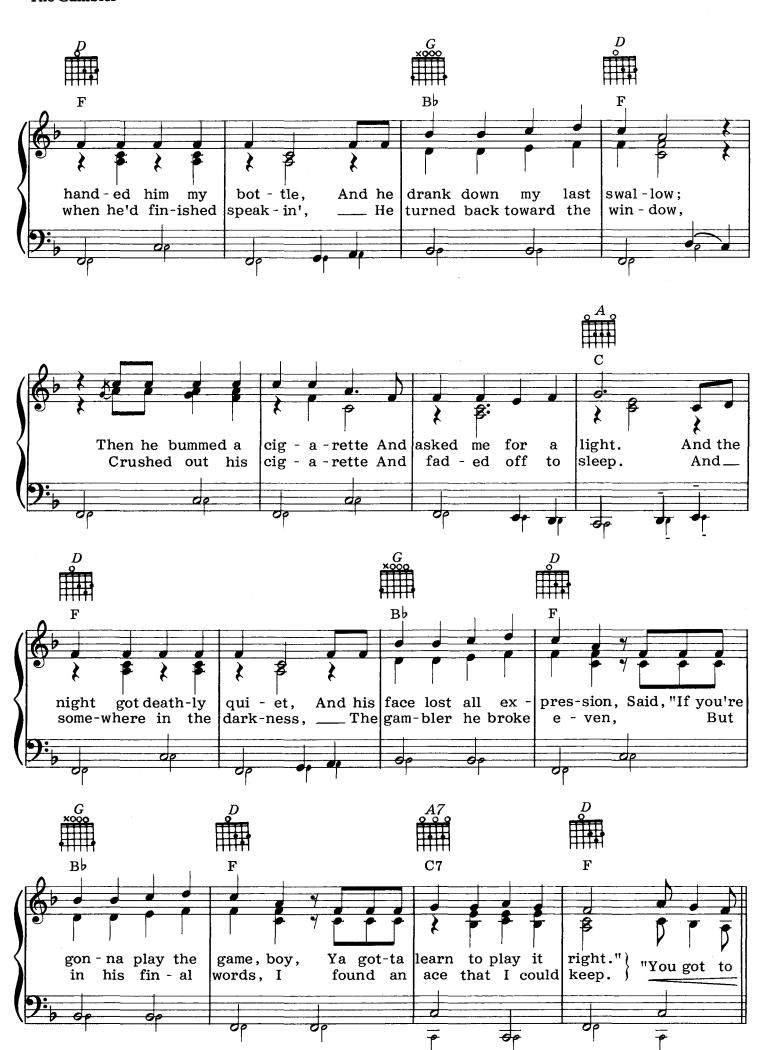
both too tired to

dark-ness

Freely











Words and Music by Alex Harvey and Larry Collins

When Tanya Tucker, barely in her teens, recorded this song about a 41-year-old woman who walks around with a suitcase in her hand waiting for a lost lover, the contrast between her youth and the song's mature theme raised eyebrows in the country music community. But Tanya's provocative, throaty delivery appealed to the fans, and her version shot to the top of the charts in 1972, surpassing those of Kitty Wells, Bobby Bare and Waylon Jennings. However, it was Helen Reddy's 1973 pop recording that became a million-seller. Alex Harvey, who co-wrote "Delta Dawn" with Larry Collins, says he wrote it in sympathy for all women, who he believes are easily exploited.



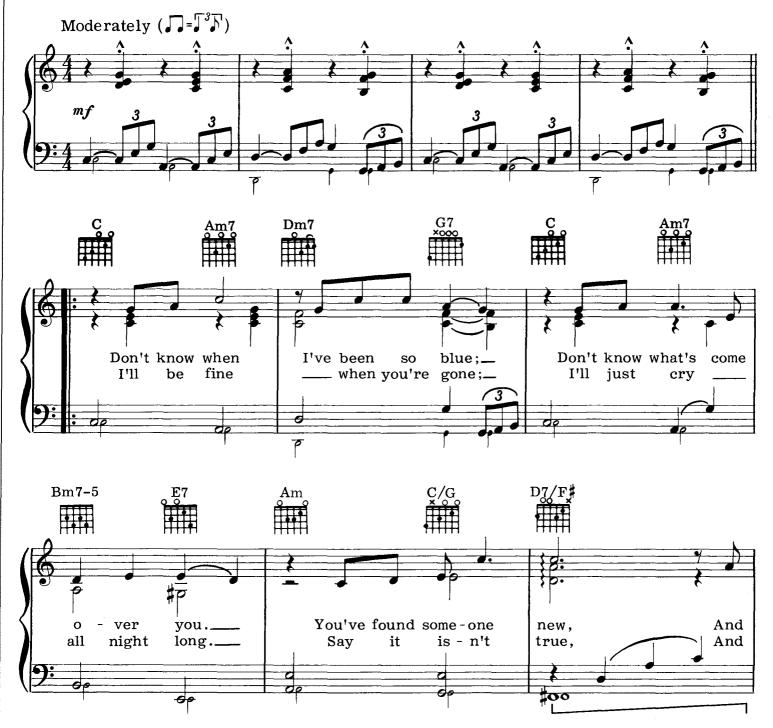


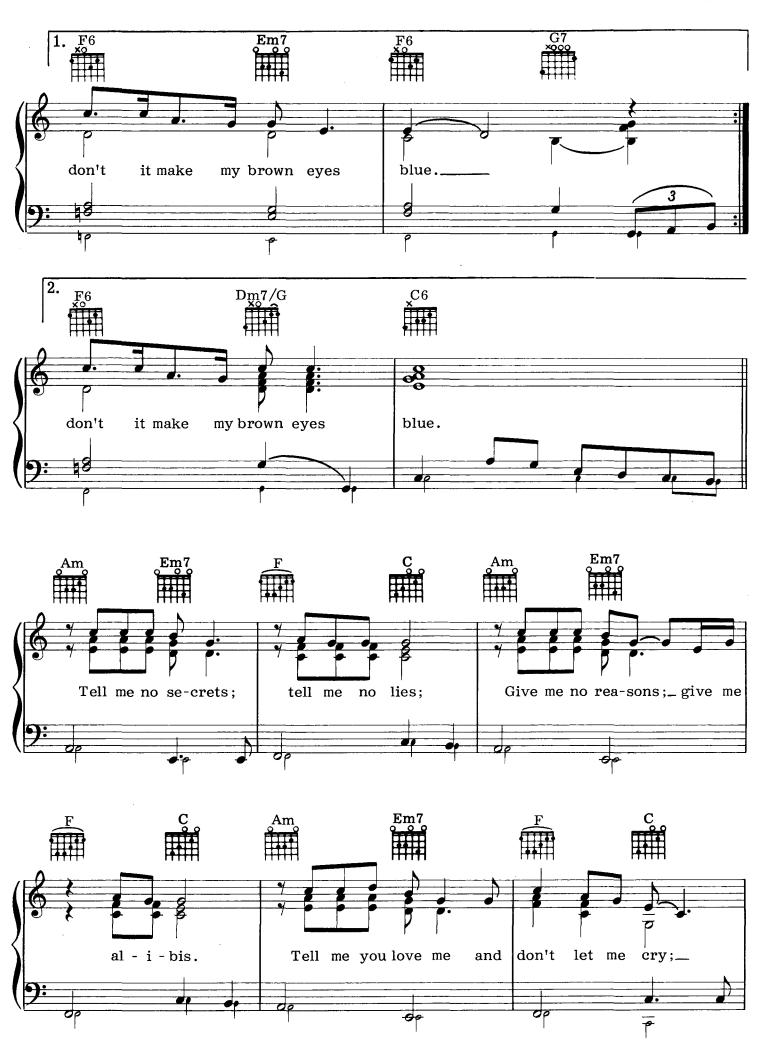


DON'T IT MAKE MY BROWN EYES BLUE

Words and Music by Richard Leigh

Singer Loretta Lynn wrote the first hit for her "baby sister," Crystal Gayle, the song called "I Cried the Blue Right Out of My Eyes." From then on, Crystal's career became a struggle to achieve success on her own. She avoided "hard country" songs and aimed for a vocal style that could "cross over" between country and pop music. Looking for another hit, she and Nashville producer Allen Reynolds selected a composition by a young pop songwriter, Richard Leigh, who was raised in Washington, D.C., and first heard country music in high school, when he saw Hank Williams' film biography, Your Cheatin' Heart, on television. That composition, "I'll Get Over You," was Leigh's first recorded tune, and it became both his and Crystal's first No. 1 hit. They followed it with "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue," their first Gold Record. Leigh believes this song became a million-seller because it has a pop melody but solid country lyrics.







I Never Promised You a Ruse Barden

Words and Music by Joe South

Joe South likes to call his songs "three-minute books" that have a beginning, a middle and an end, and always offer a moral. Before he found the "power" of songwriting, Atlantan South was only moderately successful as a singer, guitarist and record producer. Then, in 1969, he applied his formula to "Games People Play," recorded it and walked away with two Grammys, awarded by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for Song of the Year and Best Contemporary Song. A year later, he scored another success with "Rose Garden," with considerable help from a Grammy-winning recording of the song by country-pop singer Lynn Anderson.







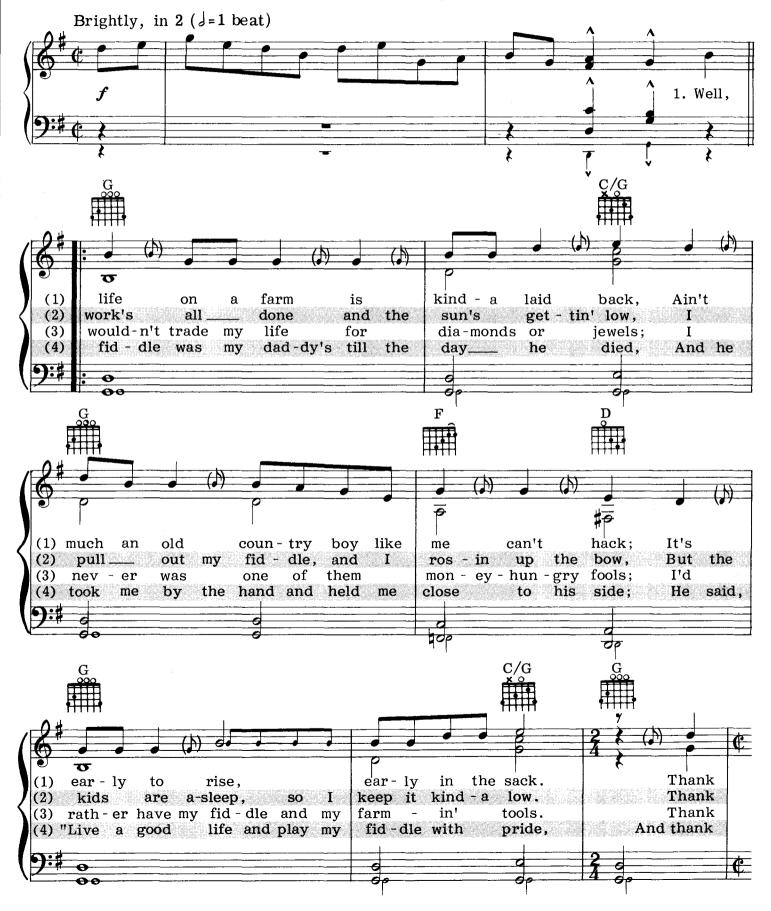
Thank God Ima Country Boy



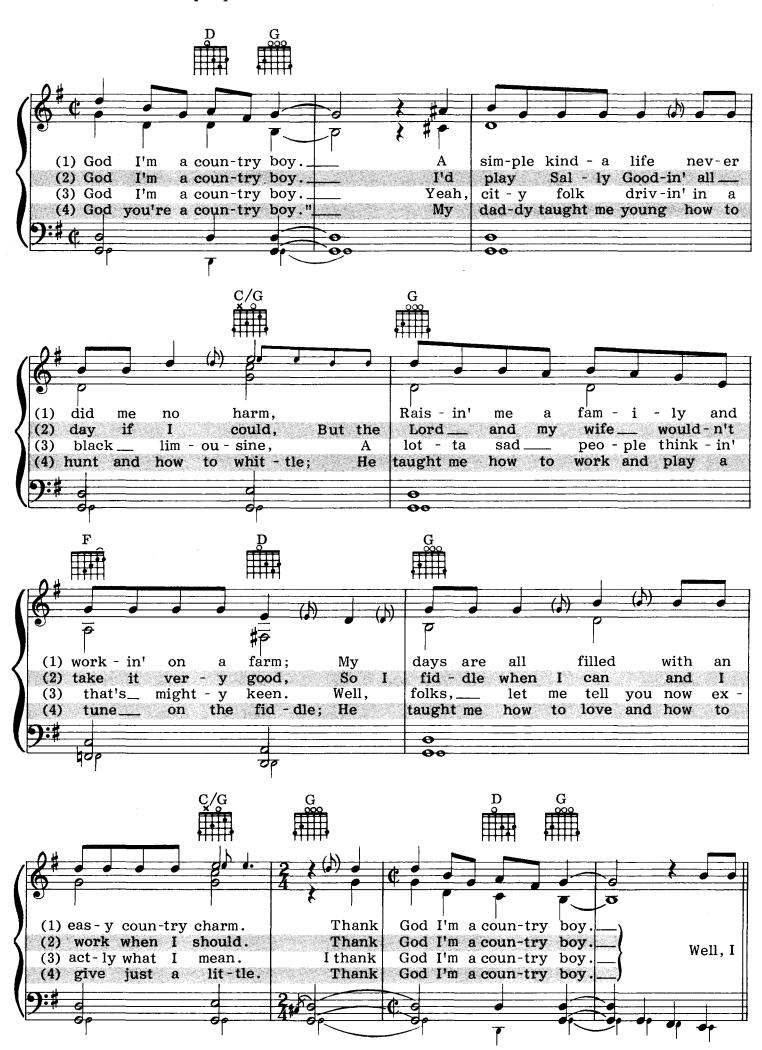
Words and Music by John Martin Sommers

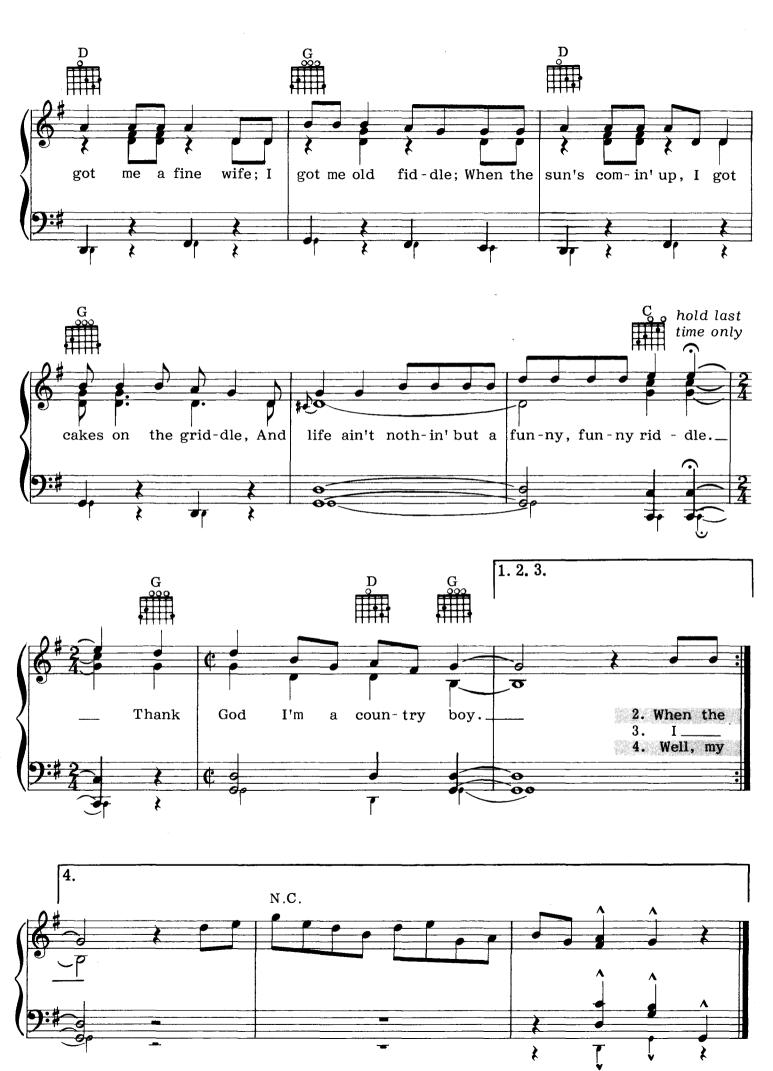
Despite the huge success of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" in 1971, singer John Denver was perceived mainly as a popular artist by country music audiences, though his recordings did occasionally cross over to the country

charts. Then, in 1975, Denver recorded a song called "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," a knee-slapping testimonial to the joys of country life, and both singer and song quickly shot to the top of the popularity lists.



Thank God I'm a Country Boy





Kiss an Angel Good Mornin

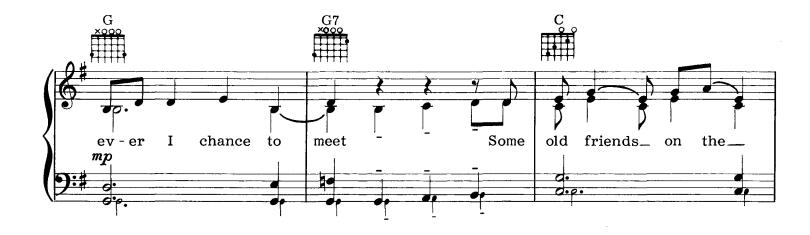
Words and Music by Ben Peters

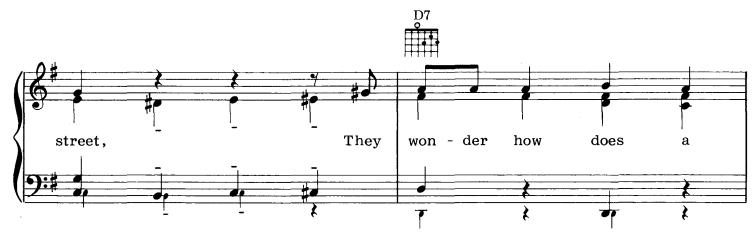
Ben Peters' daughter Angela was the inspiration for "Kiss an Angel Good Mornin'." "We call her Little Angel, and she really is an angel," he commented of Angela, who was only about six when the song became a major hit for Charley Pride in 1971. Most of Ben's songs center around personal relationships between two people: "Good or bad, happy or sad, love or losing — I have a strong inclination to write about emotional situations rather than things or happenings." Peters has also performed and written jazz and pop music, but country — which he sees as "giving" music — has brought him his greatest success.

















SECTION THREE Pages 47-74 COUNTRY HITS OF THE '60S

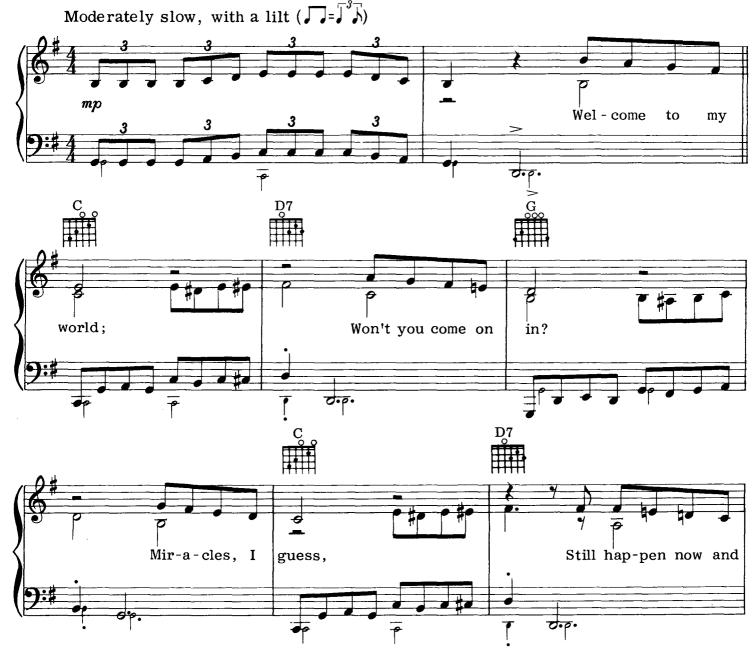


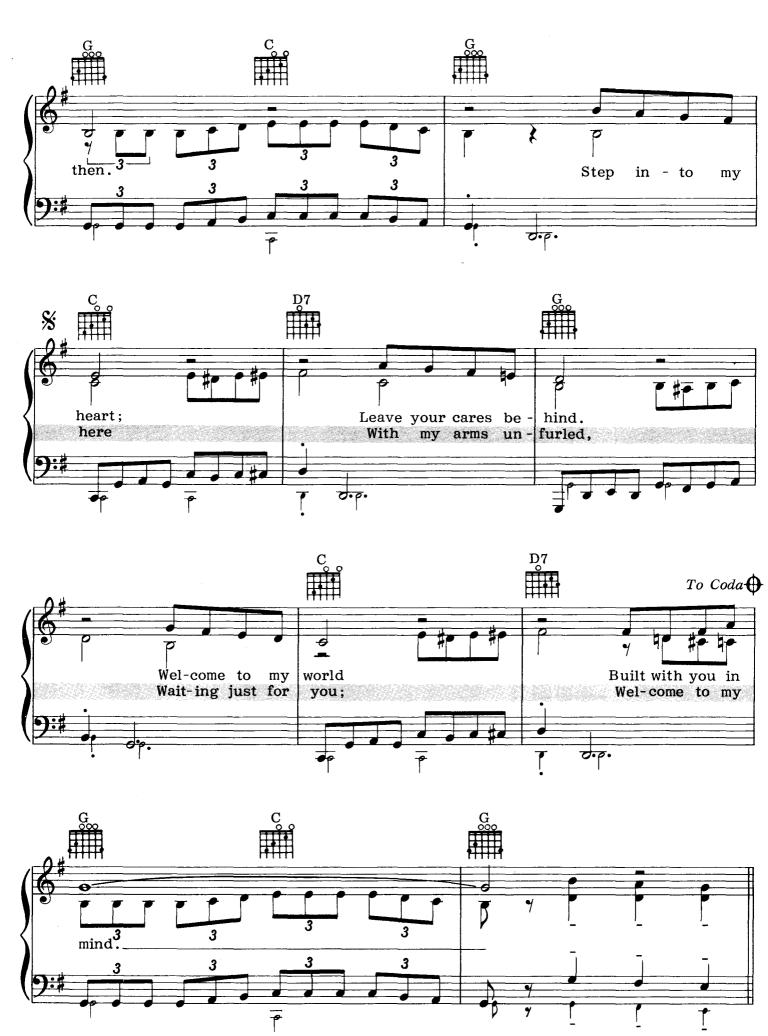
Welcome to My World

Words and Music by Ray Winkler and John Hathcock

During the 1960s, Ray Winkler and John Hathcock worked as disc jockeys at a radio station in Amarillo, Texas. In between playing records, the pair turned their talents to songwriting. Winkler was still a novice, but Hathcock had written several hits for Hank Thompson. Still, the two had little success until country star Jim Reeves played the West Texas town and stayed over a day to listen to tapes of their songs. Reeves and Winkler were old

friends, and though Reeves had encouraged Winkler in his songwriting efforts, the singer's standard comment was "You're getting better." Winkler admits that Reeves heard the four crudely dubbed songs out of politeness and friendship, but he listened attentively and, when the tape had ended, he said, "I sure do like "Welcome to My World.' "Reeves' recording of the song was a Top Ten hit in 1964, shortly before the singer died in a plane accident.







tiorted Ytio

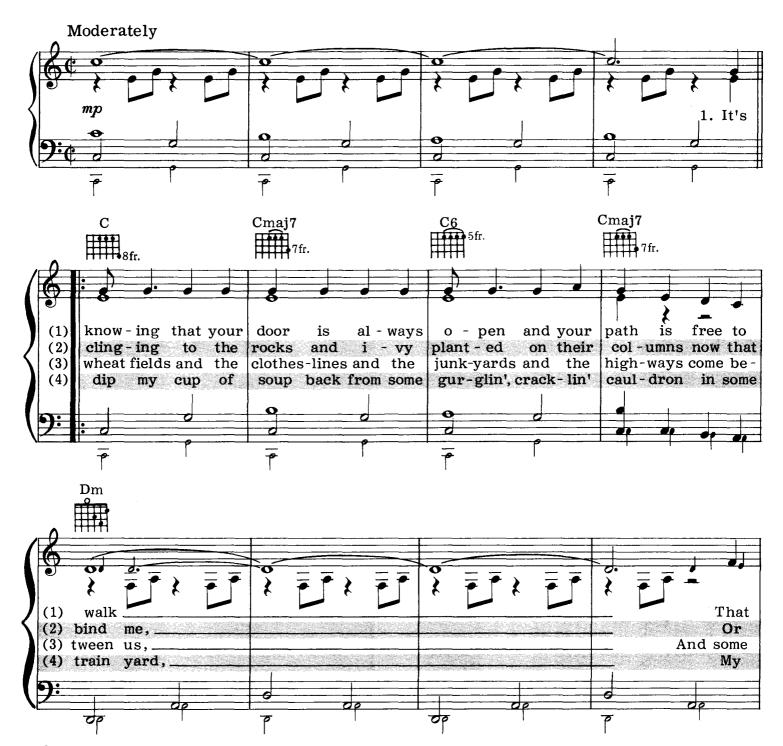
Words and Music by Danny Dill and Mel Tillis Danny Dill has a penchant for writing modern folk songs, such as the classic "The Long Black Veil." In his 1963 song "Detroit City," a million-seller for Bobby Bare, he chronicled the sad plight of Southern workers who migrated north to work in Detroit's automobile plants. "Although they made more money than they'd ever seen in their lives," Dill explains, "they became homesick. To dispel their loneliness, they toured the bars at night and drank their money away. Finally, after a few years of such futile living, they'd return home to their loved ones."

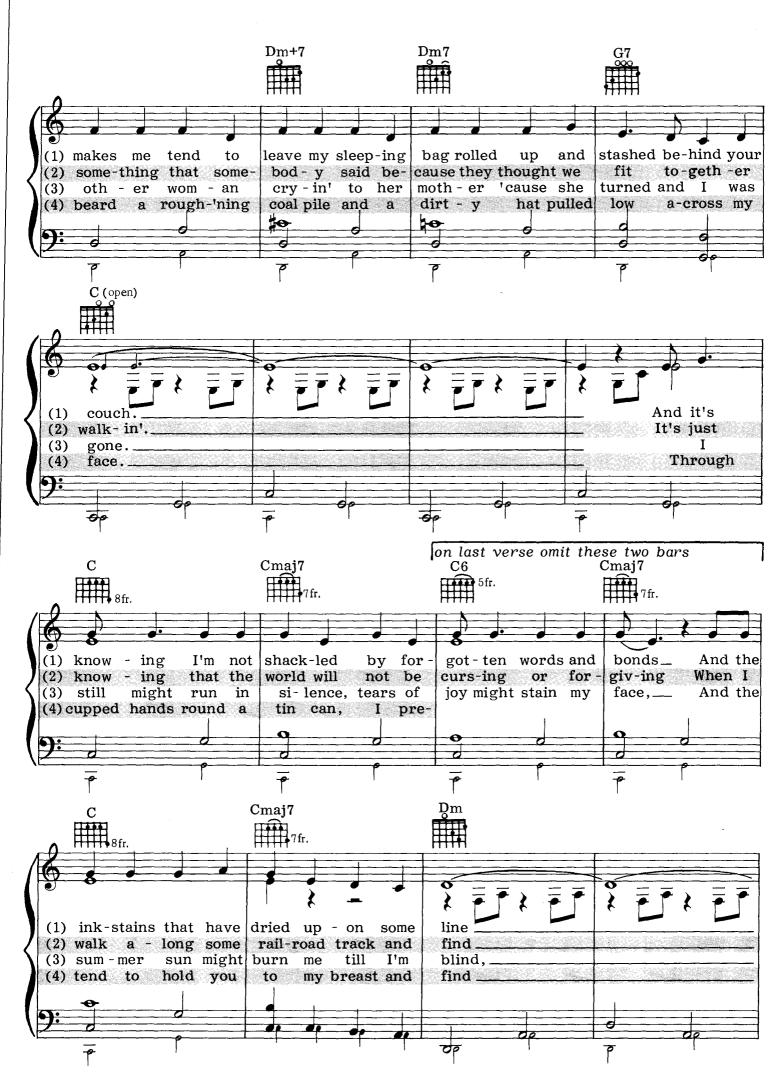


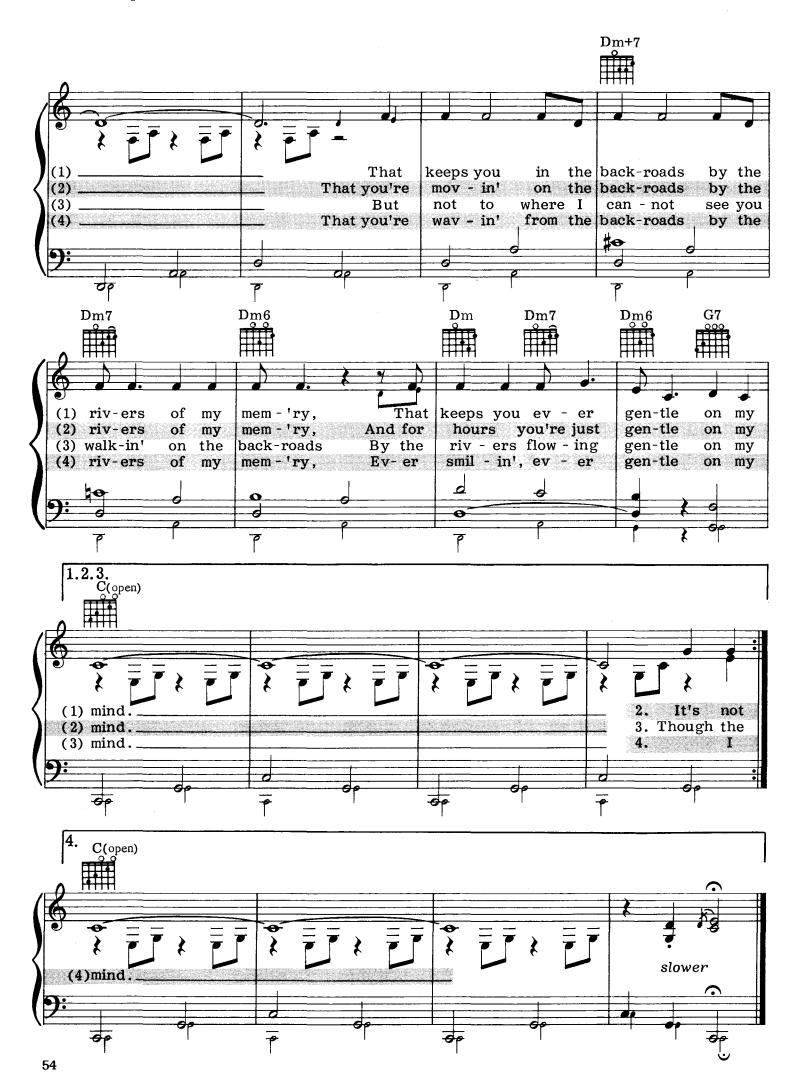


Gentle on My Mind Words and Music by John Hartford

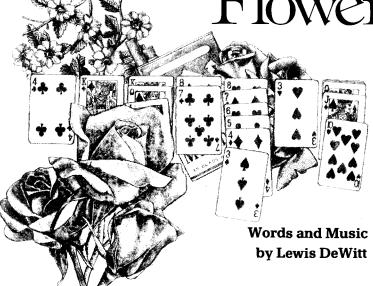
In 1967, John Hartford recorded his song "Gentle on My Mind" and scored a mild success on the country charts. Then, a few months later, rising star Glen Campbell recorded Hartford's tune, and his version stayed on the popularity charts for over three months. Although the song never became a No. 1 hit, it remains a popular favorite to this day. Hartford said that he was inspired to write the rambling, almost stream-of-consciousness lyrics after he saw the epic film Doctor Zhivago, based on Boris Pasternak's 1958 Nobel Prize-winning novel. "The film had a long traveling sensation that I liked, and I thought some of the images in it might work for me some time. I'm sure the song built up in my subconscious over a long period, but when I finally sat down, I just wrote it." Hartford claims no thorough understanding of commercial music or of what made the song a hit, but his guess is that its "message" accounts for its success.







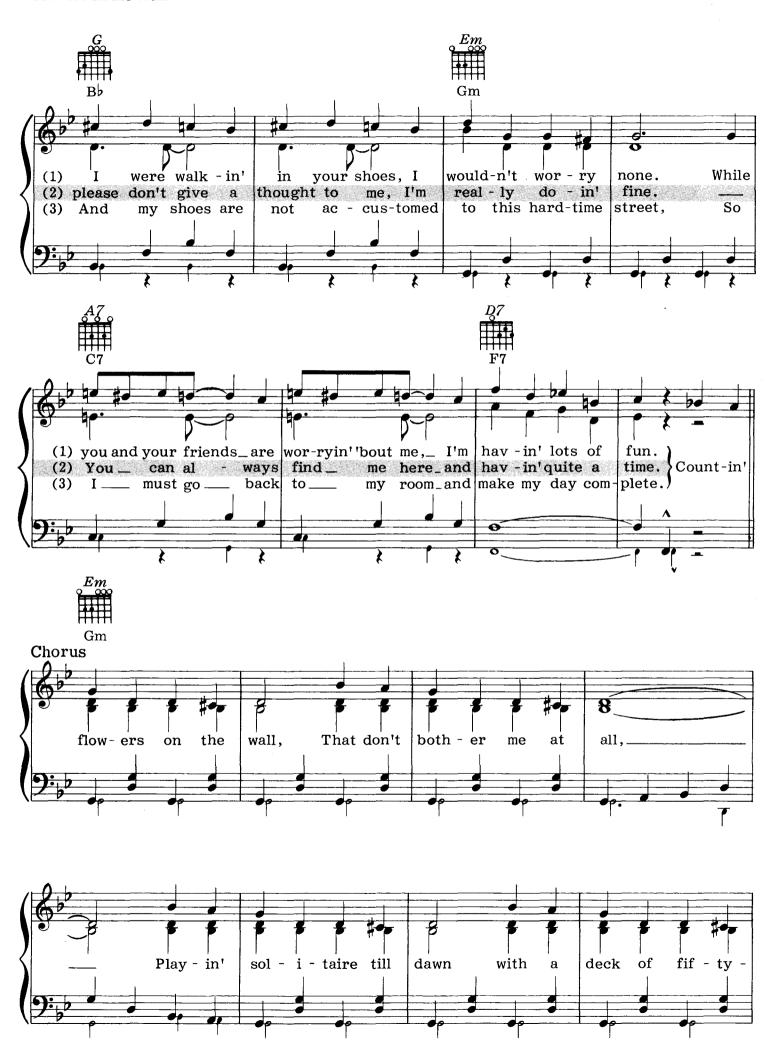
FlowersontheWall



The Statler Brothers began singing together in the early 1960s in their native Virginia. Only two members of the quartet are actually brothers, and none of them is named "Statler." "Flowers on the Wall" was their first major hit, written by "brother" Lew DeWitt and released in 1965. The Statlers were unable to repeat their initial huge success until "Bed of Rose's" in 1970. Since then, their taste for nostalgia and novelty has made them consistently popular with country fans, and a year seldom passes without at least one Statler hit on the charts. So popular are they that, between 1972 and 1980, they were named Vocal Group of the Year eight times by the Country Music Association.



Flowers on the Wall





Words and Music by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant

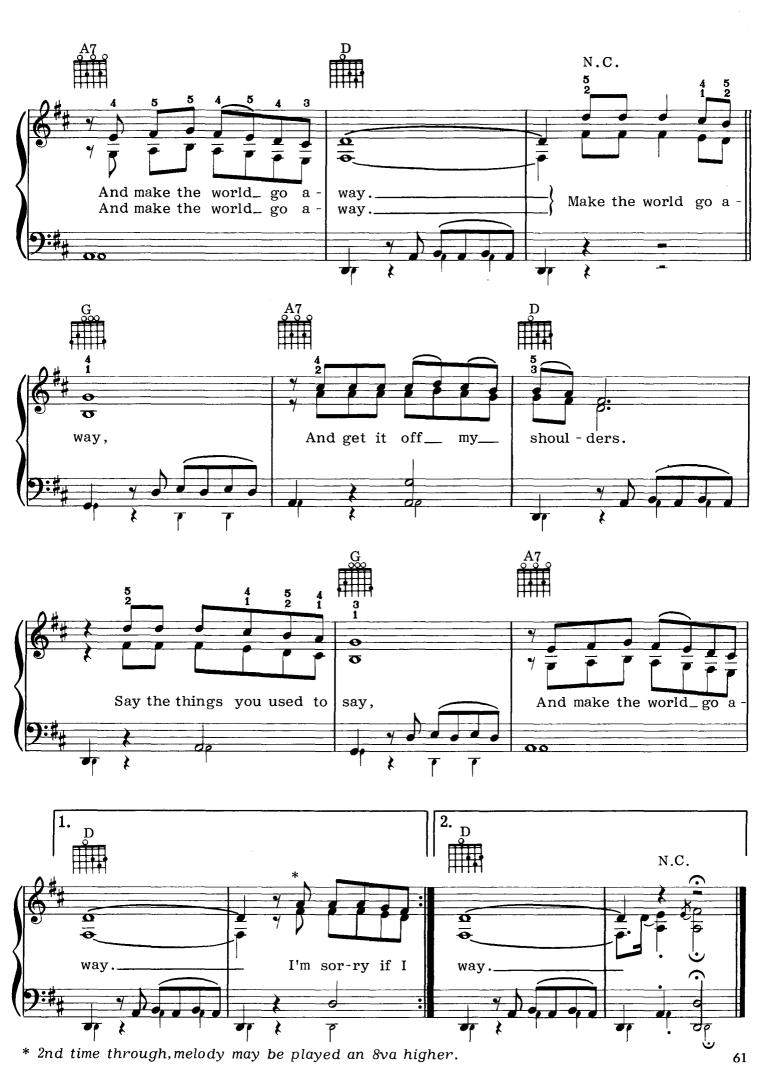
In 1967, Felice and Boudleaux Bryant were commissioned to write some "folk songs" for an album by comedian-singer Archie Campbell. After pursuing generally maudlin themes, both got depressed and began looking for relief. Felice suggested a change of pace: "Let's write some bluegrass. We're in the mountains; let's write a mountain song." The result, "Rocky Top," was finished in just a few minutes and has become one of the Bryants' most recorded songs. Later, they found out there really is such a Tennessee mountain.









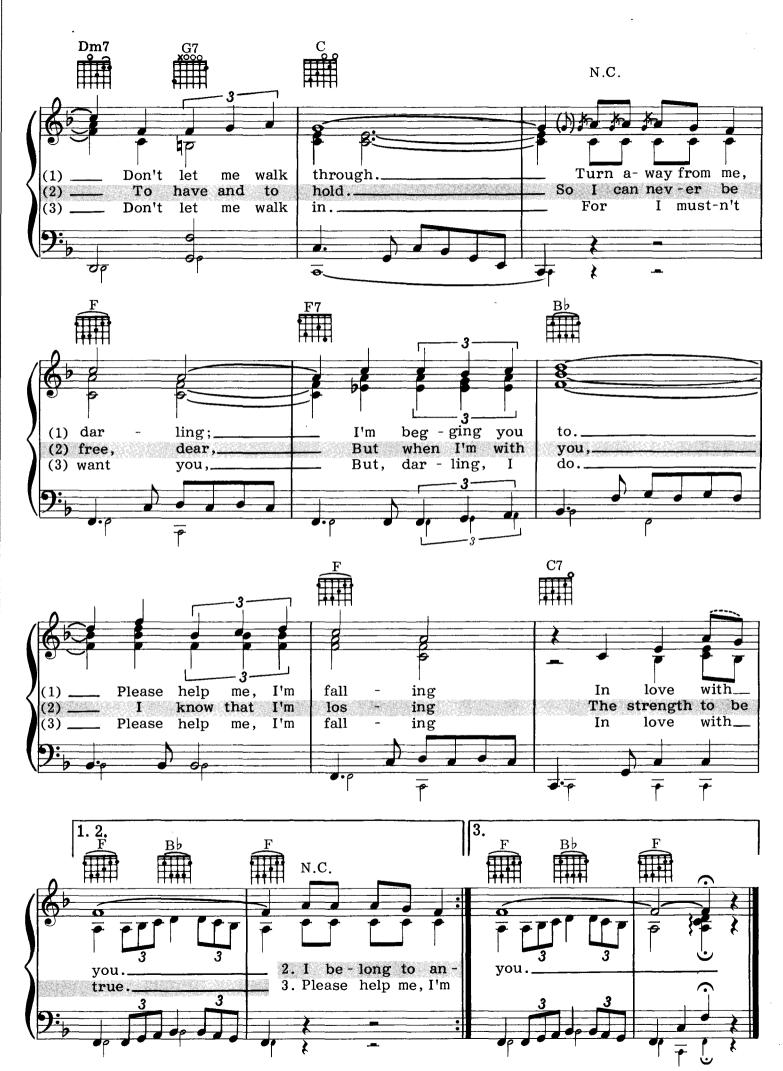


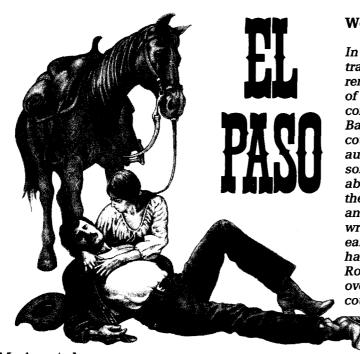


In 1960, Hank Locklin had a major chart recording of this 'cheatin'" song, which was co-written by Hal Blair and Don Robertson. But "Please Help Me, I'm Falling" had a history of rejection before it became a hit. First, Robertson put the finished song away for a year and a half, after he was told that it was no good. Then, when it was submitted to Jim Reeves as a possible recording, Reeves turned it down. Rejection finally turned into success when Chet Atkins suggested that Hank Locklin record "Please Help Me." Locklin even had a second hit with the song, in 1970, when he recorded it with Danny Davis and The Nashville Brass.

Words and Music by Don Robertson and Hal Blair





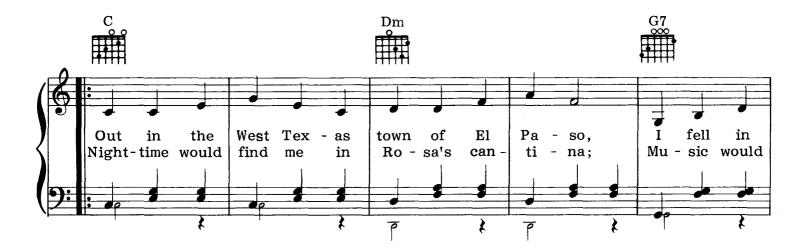


Words and Music by Marty Robbins

In the late 1950s, the story song, a long-standing tradition in country music, underwent a renaissance. Spurred on by the popular success of old folk songs like "Tom Dooley" and new compositions such as Jimmie Driftwood's "The Battle of New Orleans" and "Tennessee Stud," country writers turned their hands to writing authentic-sounding saga songs. In 1959, singersongwriter Marty Robbins penned a classic about El Paso, Texas, where, according to tradition, the West begins. "Western stories that I had read and stories my grandfather told me inspired me to write the song," he said. "Had I been born a little earlier, the cowboy life is the kind of life I'd like to have lived." This Western ballad became a hit for Robbins, despite the fact that the recording ran well over four minutes, an unusually long time for a country music single record.













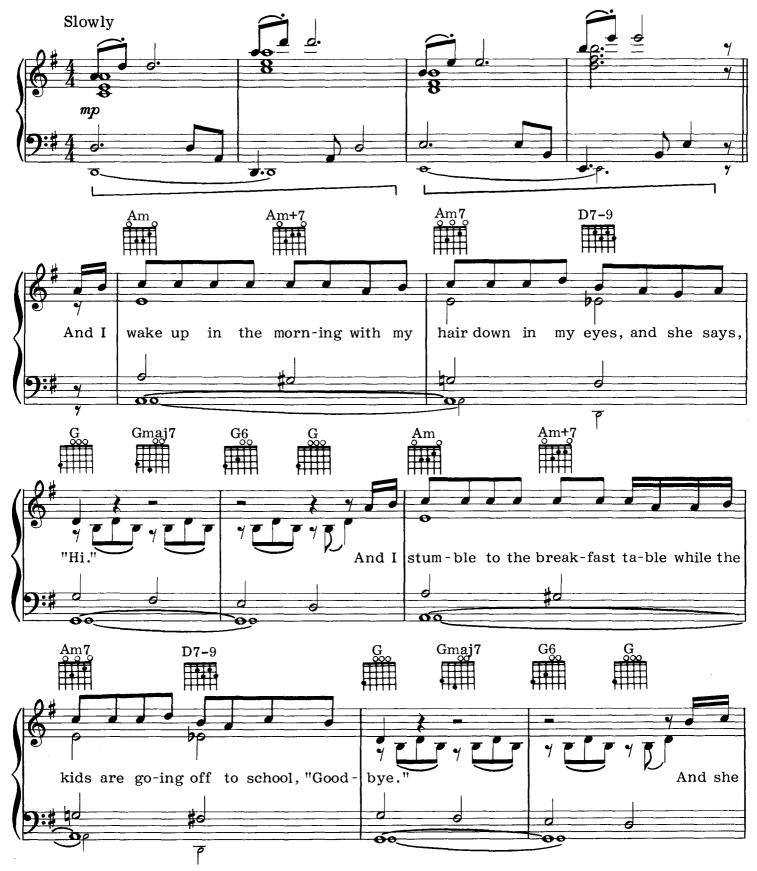




Words and Music by Bobby Russell

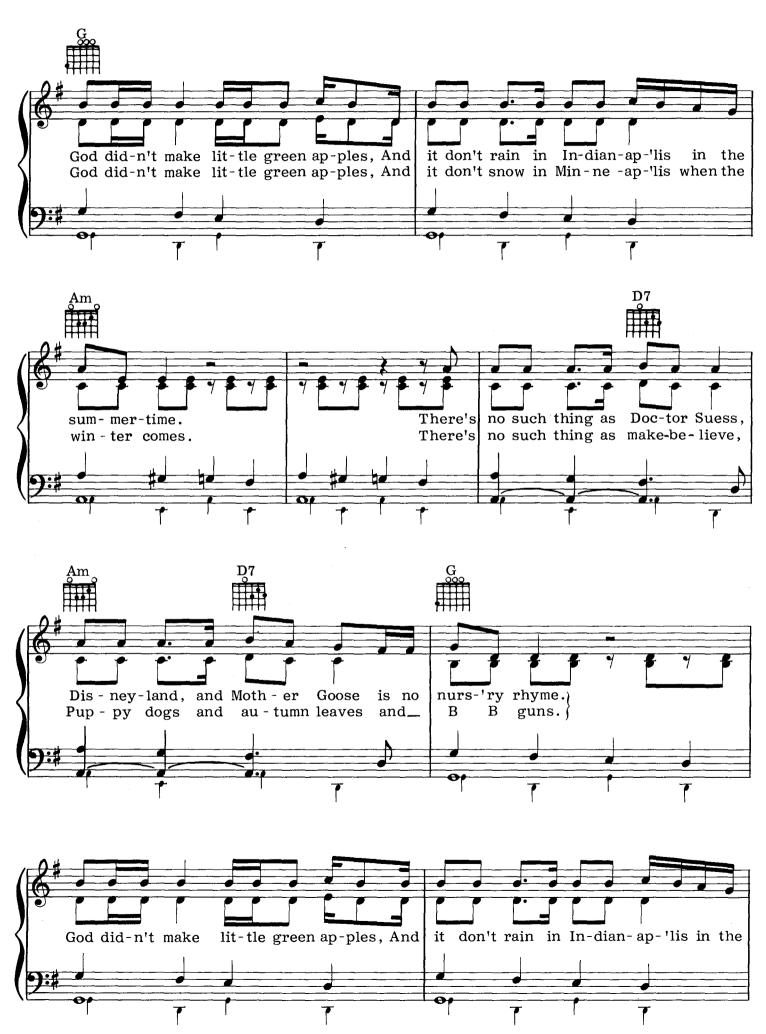
Bobby Russell likes little green apples, so it's easy to picture him driving home from work one day, turning over in his mind the phrase "as sure as God made little green apples." Since Russell is a professional songwriter ("Honey" and "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia" are two of his other hits), the words soon turned into the

beginnings of a song. By the time he reached home, he had completed the first two verses in his mind. Rushing inside the house, he jotted them down from memory, then completed the chorus. Roger Miller had a hit with "Little Green Apples" in 1968, and the song won two Grammys, for Song of the Year and Best Country Song.





Little Green Apples





My Last Date (with You)

Words by Boudleaux Bryant and Skeeter Davis;
Music by Floyd Cramer

When guitarist and RCA producer Chet Atkins brought piano stylist Floyd Cramer to Nashville from Louisiana Hayride in 1955, Cramer quickly became one of country music's most popular sidemen, backing such stars as Elvis Presley and Jim Reeves. In 1960, he wrote and recorded an instrumental, "Last Date," that climbed high on both the pop and country charts and sold a million copies. Several months later, songwriter Boudleaux Bryant and country-pop singer Skeeter Davis put words to Cramer's tune and came up with "My Last Date (with You)." Skeeter recorded it, and her record, released in December 1961, quickly rose to the Top Ten. During this period, Bryant and his usual collaborator, his wife, Felice, wrote a number of successful songs for The Everly Brothers, including "Bye Bye Love," "Wake Up, Little Susie" and "All I Have to Do Is Dream."





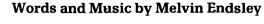




SECTION FOUR Pages 75-120 COUNTRY HITS OF THE '50S



singing the Blues



Songwriter Melvin Endsley idolized Hank Williams and, in his efforts to get from his native Drasco, Arkansas, to Nashville, tried to write songs that Williams might sing. Endsley knew he had written a good song with "Singing the Blues," but his hero, who died in 1953, never got to hear it. Instead, it was Marty Robbins who had the best-selling country version of the tune and Guy Mitchell who made it a hit on the pop charts. By 1956, when "Singing the Blues" became his first No. 1 hit, Robbins had been a regular on Grand Ole Opry for three years.









Release Me

Words and Music by Eddie Miller and W. S. Stevenson

Eddie Miller believed that simplicity and universality are the ingredients that make a song a "standard," and a standard is what he created in 1954 with "Release Me." Miller was a bandleader during the 1940s and '50s, heading up a group called Eddie Miller and The Oklahomans, which played mainly one-night stands. It was on one such occasion, he recalled, that he heard a couple arguing near the bandstand. The woman said, "If you'd release me, we wouldn't have any problems, and everything would be all right." That remark stayed with Miller, because "release me" seemed

a softer way of saying "divorce," a term he had always considered a "dirty word" in a song. Some time later, he wrote three simple verses around the idea, with a completely original, but equally simple, melody that complemented the lyrics perfectly. Singer Jimmy Heap recorded the song early in 1954, and it provided him with the only chart recording of his career. But it was the Ray Price version that firmly established the song (and the singer) on the country charts. In 1967, "Release Me" launched the career of the British pop singer Engelbert Humperdinck, whose recording of it sold 5 million copies.



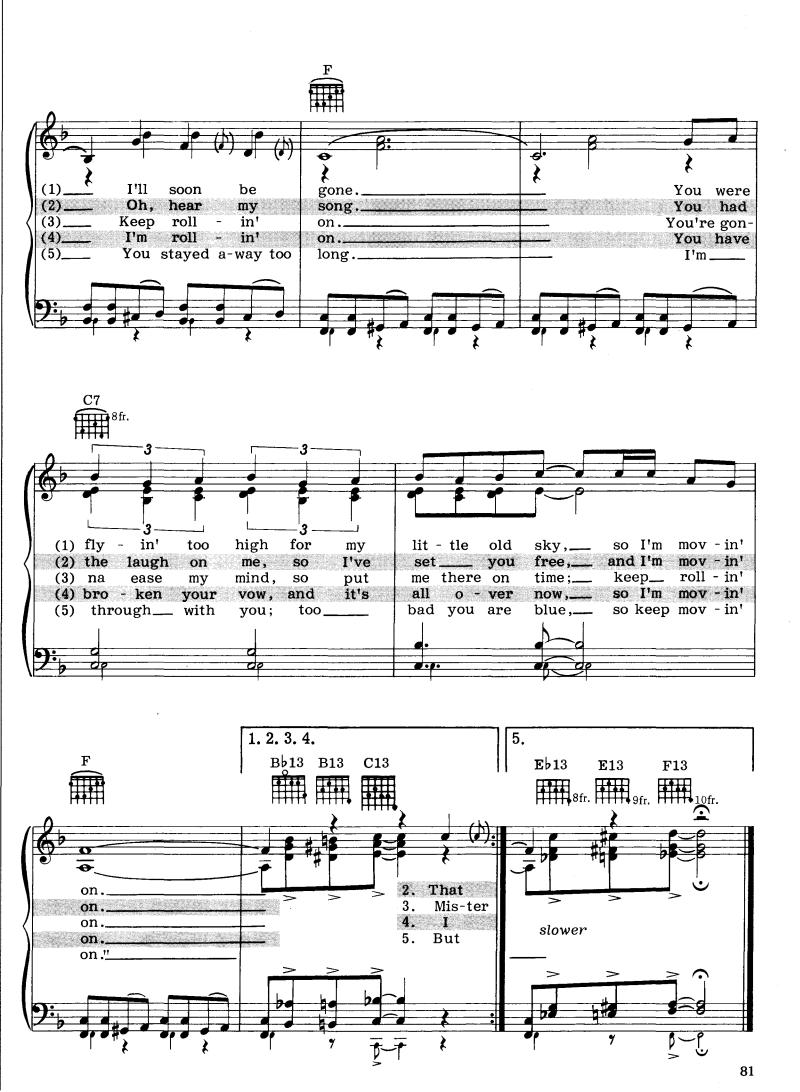


OD Moald, Jom

Words and Music by Hank Snow

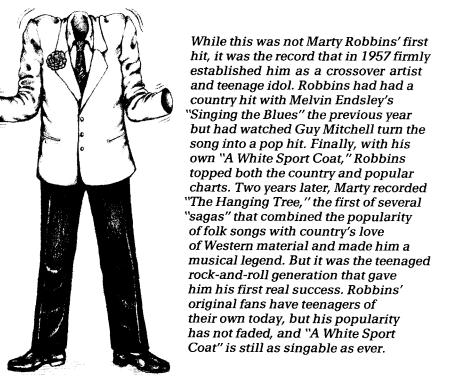
Hank Snow himself started moving on when he was only 14, leaving his unhappy childhood home in Nova Scotia to spend four years aboard a fishing boat. Though he had never met a cowboy, his earliest heroes were cowboy movie star Tom Mix and Jimmie Rodgers, 'The Blue Yodeler." (When Hank began singing in small clubs in his teens, it was as "The Yodeling Ranger," which later became "The Singing Ranger.") He won a recording contract in 1936, but he was unknown outside Canada until the late 1940s, when his records were released in the United States and another Jimmie Rodgers fan, Ernest Tubb, helped get him a bid to appear on Grand Ole Opry. In 1950, his career really started moving on when he recorded two of his own songs, "I'm Movin' On" and "The Golden Rocket," which both shot to the top. Hank has since had many hits, but none as great as this one.

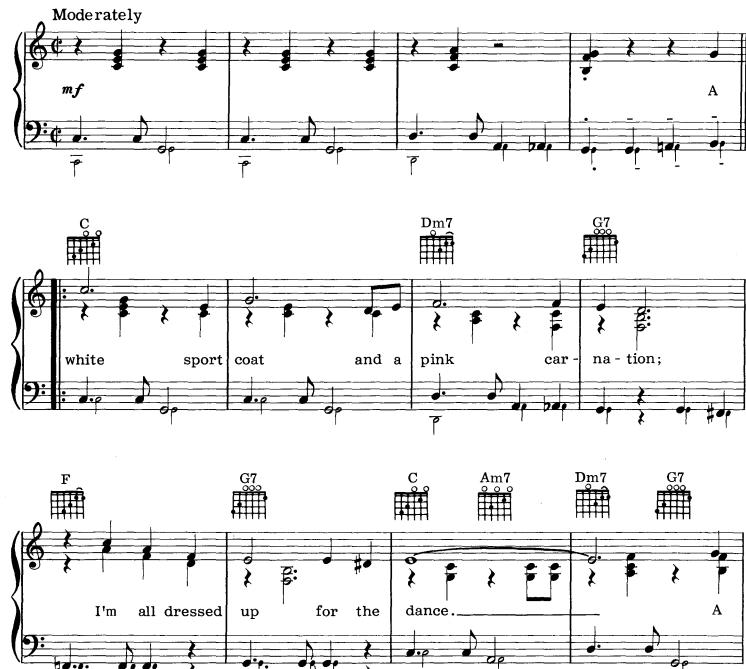


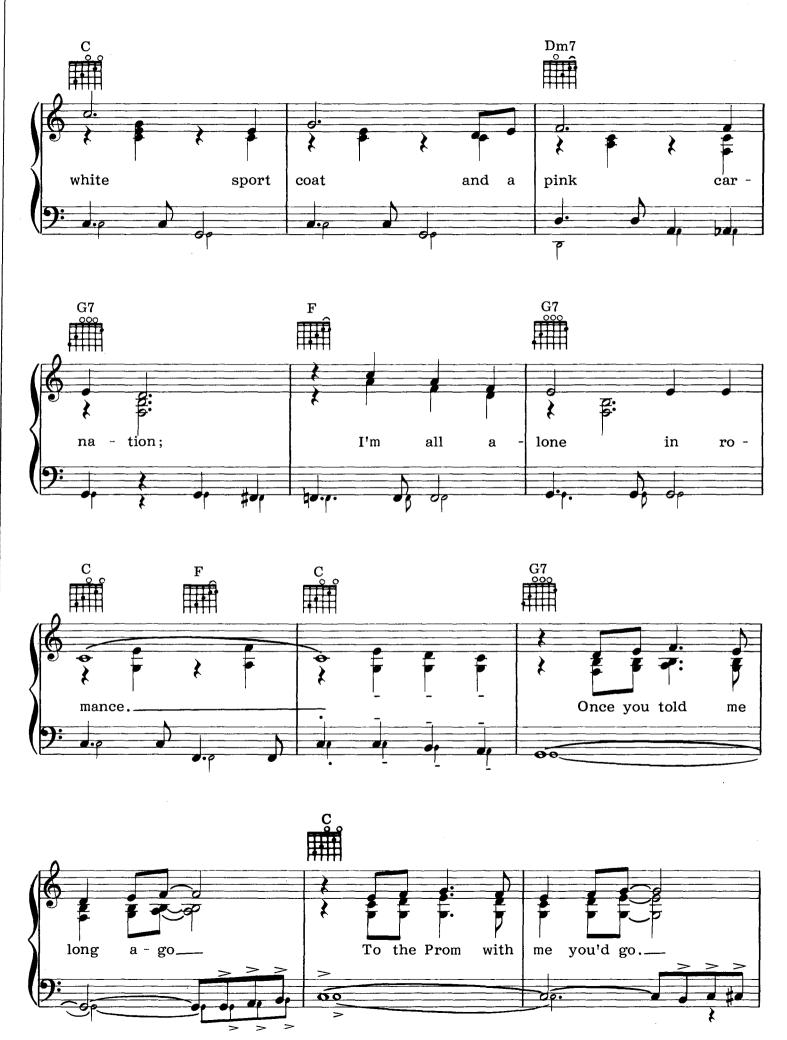


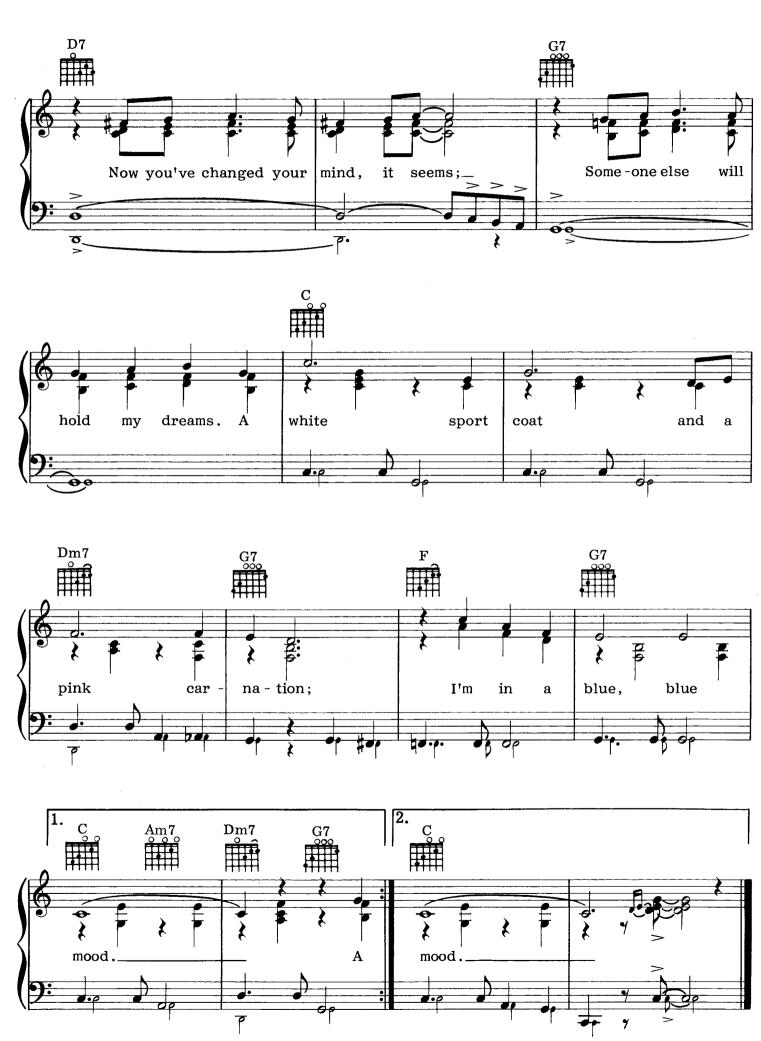
A White Sport Coat (and a Pink Carnation)

Words and Music by Marty Robbins









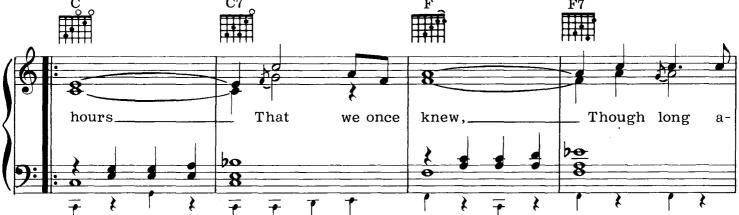


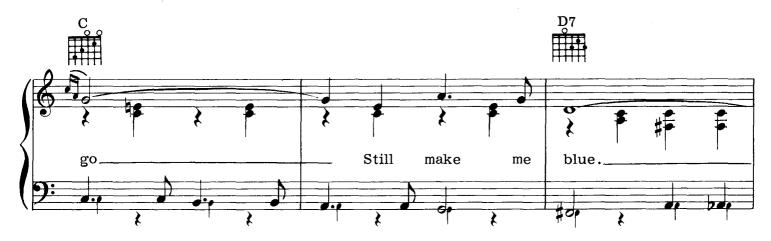
Words and Music by Don Gibson

The setting was a house trailer on the highway outside Knoxville, Tennessee. The time: an afternoon in late 1957. Songwriter Don Gibson sat down with his guitar to practice his trade, and the result was not one but two classic country songs — "I Can't Stop Loving You" and "Oh, Lonesome Me." With an RCA recording contract in hand, he took both songs into a Nashville studio and produced one record of two No. 1 hits. Kitty Wells also recorded "I Can't Stop Loving You," and her version, too, reached the Top Ten. Then, in 1962, Ray Charles produced a pop-country recording that sold a million copies. Both songs are now acknowledged classics. Quite a profitable afternoon!





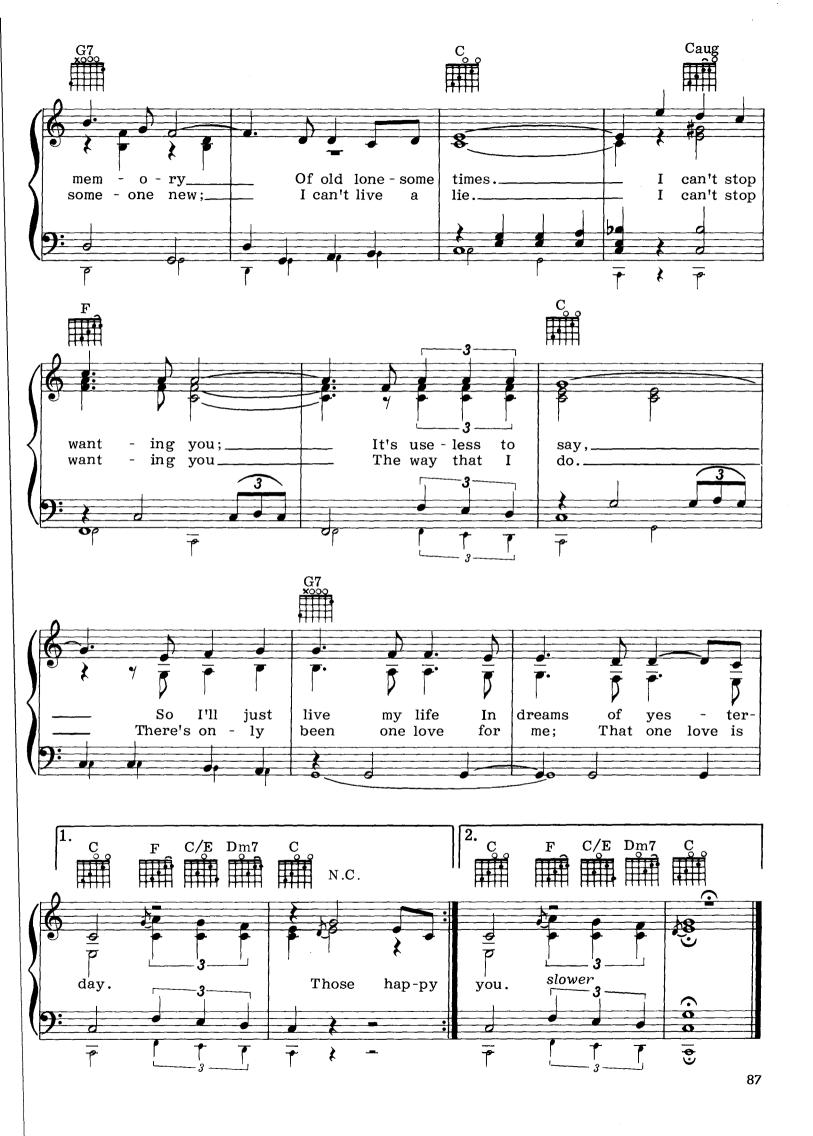




I Can't Stop Loving You

86



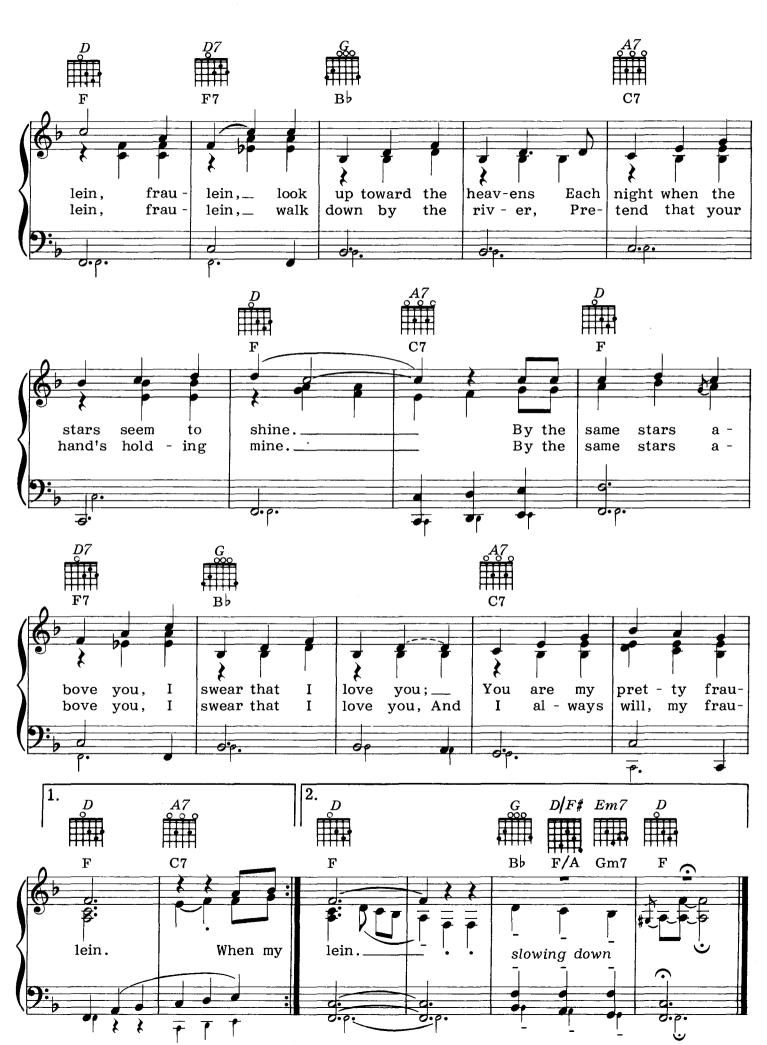


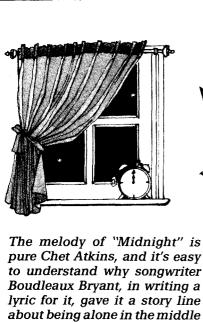
Words and Music by Lawton Williams

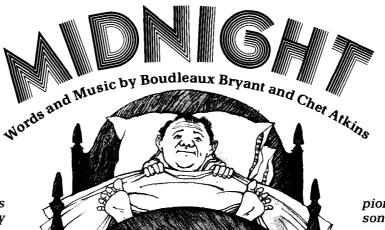
FRAULEIN

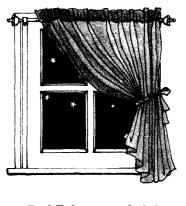
Singer Bobby Helms' 1957 version of "Fraulein" set a record for longevity in country music: not only did the recording reach No. 1, but it remained on the charts for a solid year, surpassing even such country classics as "Cold, Cold Heart" and "Crazy Arms." Lawton Williams, who wrote the song, says that it was inspired by a blond-haired girl from a German settlement in South Texas whom he met during World War II and to whom he was engaged for five years. Williams and his "Texas fraulein" met at the radio station in Houston where he was singing at the time.





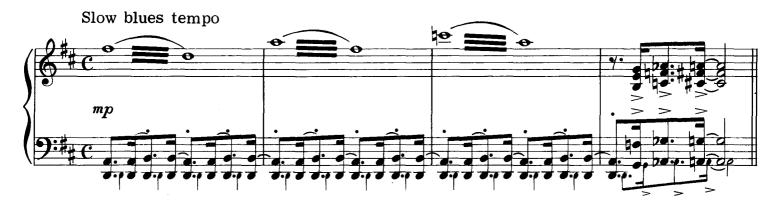




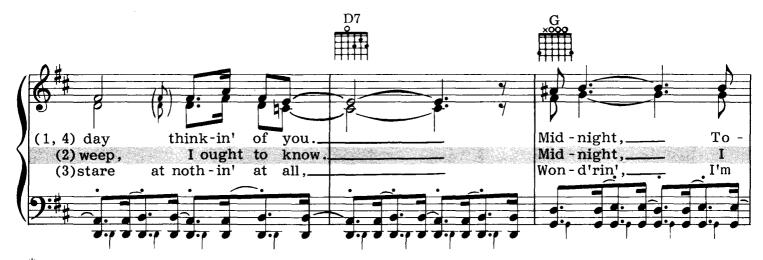


pure Chet Atkins, and it's easy to understand why songwriter Boudleaux Bryant, in writing a lyric for it, gave it a story line about being alone in the middle of the night and lonesome for a very special girl. Country-music

pioneer Red Foley recorded the song in 1952, and it quickly reached No. 1 on the charts. Like so many other country greats, both Foley and Atkins have been elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame, Red in 1967 and Chet in 1973.









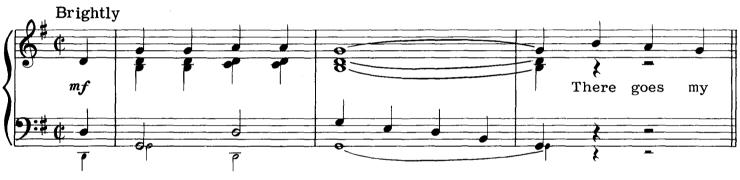


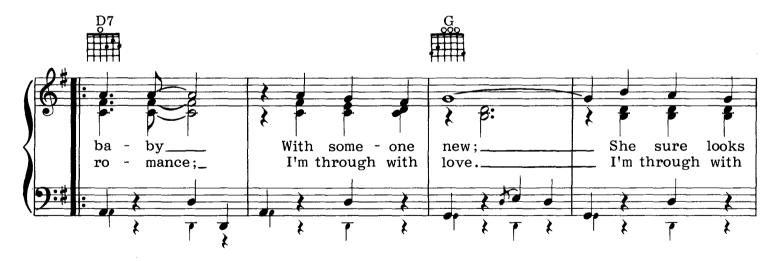
By By Egys

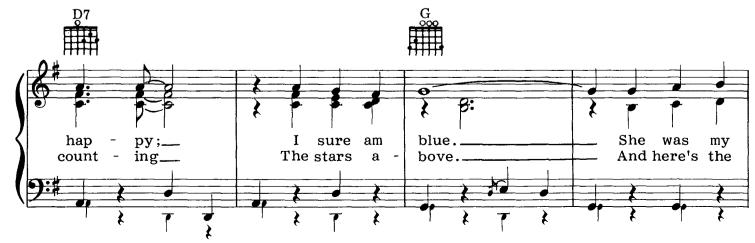
Words and Music by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant

The late 1950s were grim years in Nashville, as the impact of rock and roll began to make itself felt and country music went into a decline. Then a number of young artists appeared who were able to fuse country with a rock beat. Among them were Don and Phil Everly, members of a well-known country-music family, who left their native Kentucky to try their luck in Music City. As The Everly Brothers, Don and Phil gained a following in local clubs and eventually were given a recording contract by Cadence Records. A search for new material took them to the publishing firm of Acuff-Rose, where they met the songwriting team of Felice and Boudleaux Bryant and heard a new Bryant composition, "Bye Bye Love." The Everlys' 1957 recording of the song, which reached first place on the country charts and second on the pop play lists, launched their long and successful career. It also cemented their relationship with the Bryants, who provided them with several other top hits.

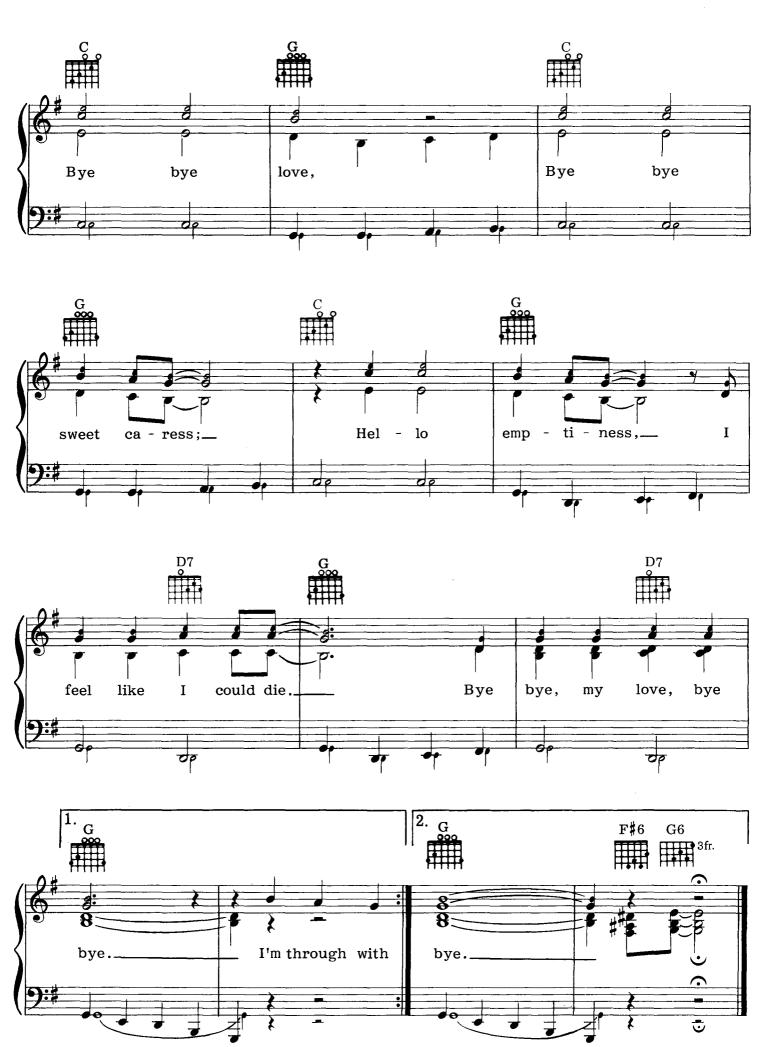










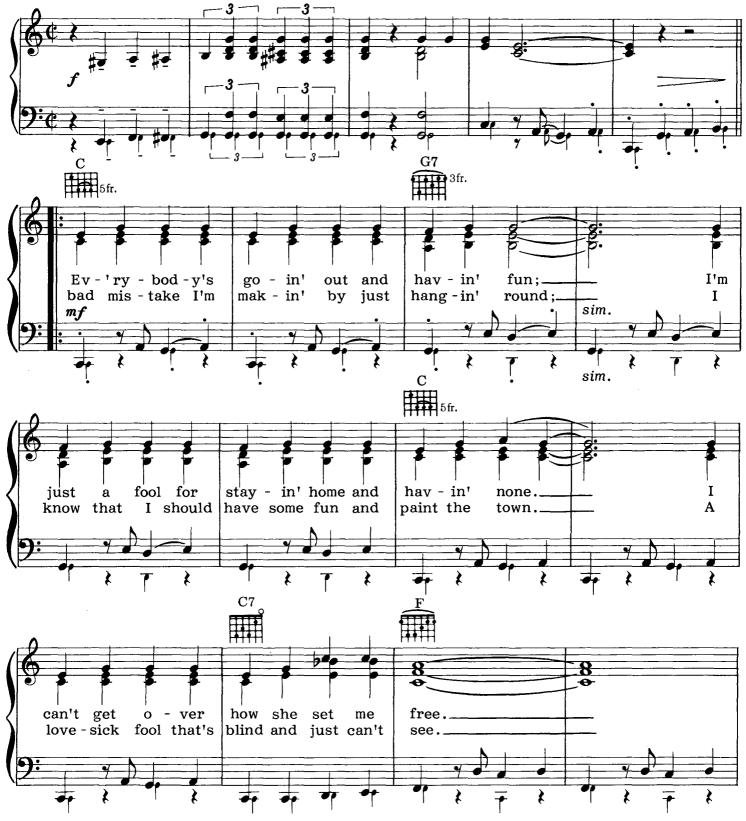


LONESOME Mords and Music by Don Gibson

Don Gibson's scribbled original of this song bore the title "Ole Lonesome Me," but when the record and sheet music appeared in 1958, the publisher had interpreted it as "Oh, Lonesome Me." The title stuck, and the song became Gibson's first hit, backed by the equally memorable "I

Can't Stop Loving You." Gibson has said that the song expressed his mood at the time. A lot of country fans who have had similar feelings made "Oh, Lonesome Me" a standard, and it has produced chart records for Johnny Cash, Stonewall Jackson and Loggins & Messina.

Moderately bright, in 2 (= 1 beat)



Oh, Lonesome Me







Words and Music by Don Gibson

Don Gibson's skill as a songwriter was well established before he made his mark as a performer. Then, in 1958, he recorded his "Oh, Lonesome Me" and "I Can't Stop Loving You," which became back-to-back hits and brought him fame and fortune. Several years later, he penned this song, which, although not as big a hit, has also become a country classic. Gibson says he got the idea from a magazine interview with Bobby Darin in which the pop singer stated that he wanted to become a legend in his own time. Darin died before that could come to pass, but Gibson's slightly ironic song will be with us for a long time.





SENDME THE PILL U DREAM ON

Words and Music by Hank Locklin

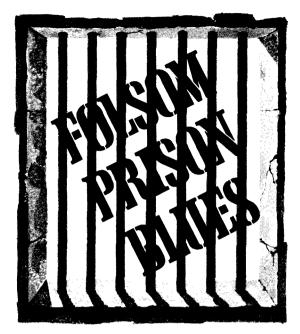
This song was Hank Locklin's big hit in 1958, but he soon surpassed it with his 1960 million-selling version of Don Robertson's "Please Help Me, I'm Falling." Lawrence Hankins Locklin's history is a true Horatio Alger story. He chopped cotton as a boy in his native McLellan, Florida,

worked for the WPA during the Depression, went on to sing on Louisiana Hayride and Grand Ole Opry, and eventually became mayor of his hometown. Hank also became a favorite in Ireland, where he was chiefly responsible for making country music popular.

Nice and easy







Words and Music by Johnny Cash

The late 1950s in Memphis were seminal years in the history of country music. The advent of rock and roll had the traditional Nashville style of music in sad retreat. But in Memphis, Sam Phillips of Sun Records developed a group of artists who could combine country lyrics and sentiment with a rock beat. These "rockabillies" included Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash. "Folsom Prison Blues," backed by "So Doggone Lonesome," became Cash's first Top Ten record upon its release in 1956. He wrote it while he was in the Air Force, in 1954, inspired by the film Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison. The song began Cash's close association with prisons — and trains as symbols of freedom — which he has maintained during his career. Cash claims that the popularity of prison songs can be explained by the idea that many of us "are living in one little kind of prison or another." When a second recording of "Folsom Prison Blues"— made in the prison itself as part of his album At Folsom Prison — was released by Columbia in 1968, it went all the way to No. 1 and earned Cash a Gold Record.

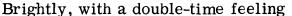


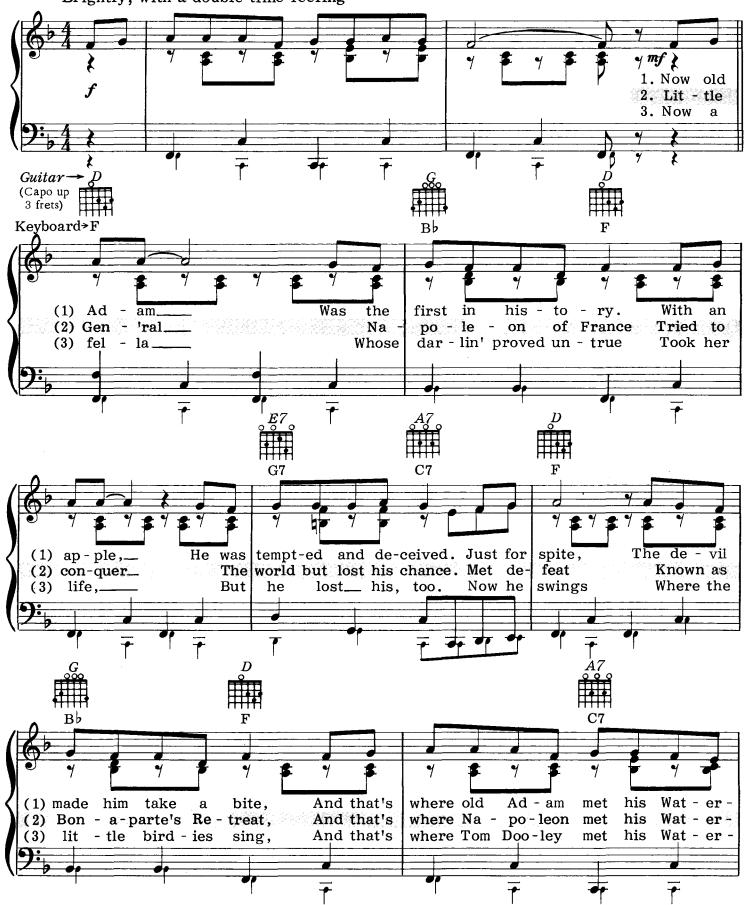




Words and Music by John Loudermilk and Marijohn Wilkin

"Waterloo" assured the success of three country musicians:
Marijohn Wilkin and John D. Loudermilk, who wrote it, and
Stonewall Jackson, who had the No. 1 recording of it in 1959.
Loudermilk and Wilkin had both moved to Nashville to write for
a music publisher, and songwriter Jackson had landed a
recording contract on the basis of his demonstration tapings of
songs. The Battle of Waterloo may seem an odd theme for a
country song, but the 1950s were the era of the great saga songs,
such as "Long Black Veil" and "The Battle of New Orleans."

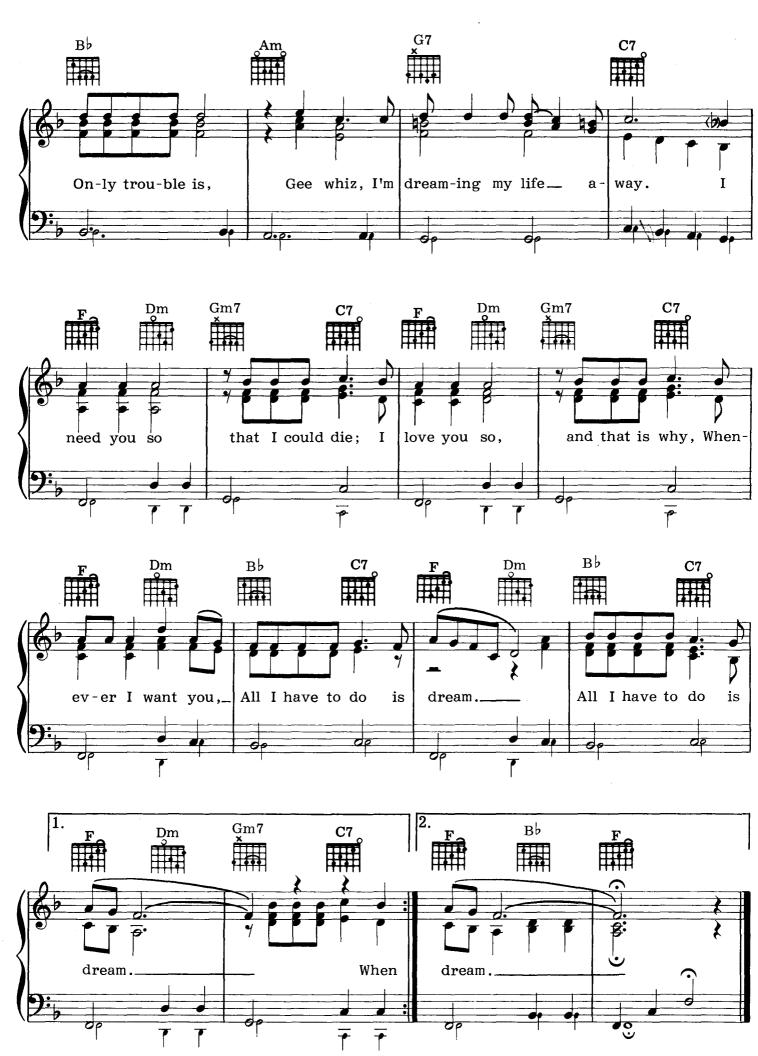






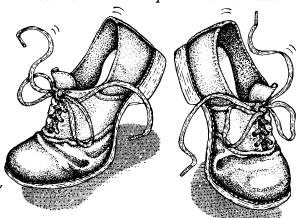






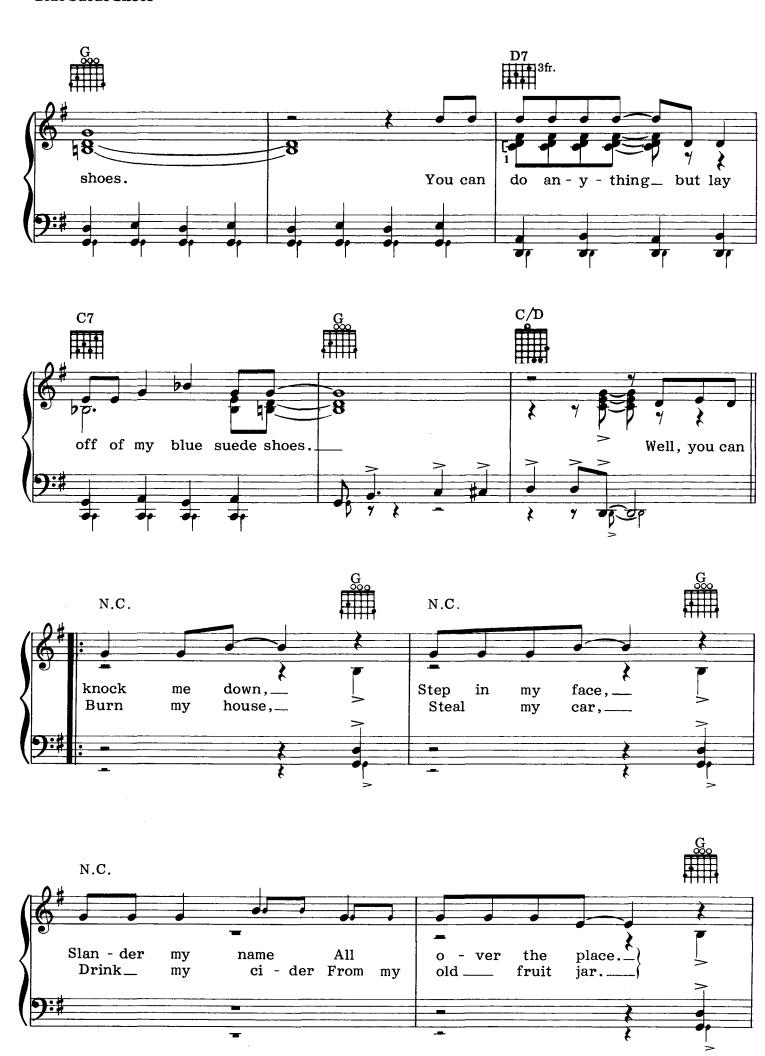
Words and Music by Carl Lee Perkins

Carl Perkins was playing a club date with his band — his brothers, Jay and Clayton, and W. S. Holland — in their hometown of Jackson, Tennessee, when he overheard a young, fashionably dressed rock-and-roller warn, "Don't step on my suedes!" That phrase stayed with the singer/guitarist and, combined with the words from a nursery rhyme, became "Blue Suede Shoes."



Perkins and his band had been trying to get a recording on Sam Phillips' Sun label in Memphis. A phone call to Phillips ended with Carl singing the song and receiving an invitation to record. "Blue Suede Shoes" became a hit song of 1956, and Perkins joined the group at Sun—Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis — who were making "rockabilly" a reality.







If You've Got the Money (I've Got the Time)

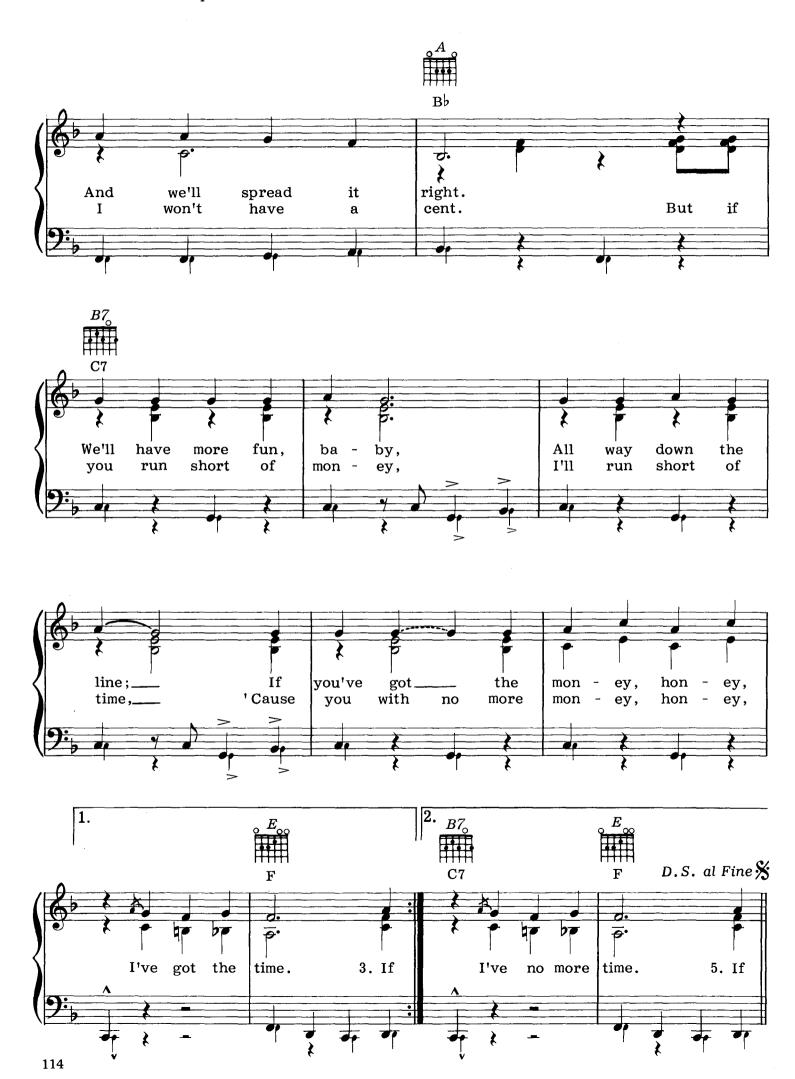
Words and Music by Lefty Frizzell and Jim Beck

During the 1940s and '50s, a unique institution grew up in the oil-booming, post-Depression country of Texas and Louisiana — the honky-tonk. Ranging from tiny rural taverns to larger but no more elaborate saloons on the outskirts of towns like Dallas and Waco, honky-tonks provided the itinerant, hardworking laborers with their favorite forms of entertainment — drinking, dancing and an occasional brawl. It was almost inevitable that they would develop their own distinctive musical style, and "honky-tonk music," with its heavy beat, electrified instruments and frank lyrics, became an important part of country music. William Orville Frizzell grew up in a

succession of such places in and around Corsicana, Texas, learning to play and sing, and winning enough amateur fights to earn the nickname Lefty. By the time he was 21, Frizzell was a thoroughly professional singer and asked Dallas agent Jim Beck to try to get him a recording contract. Beck took a demonstration record of one of Lefty's songs, "If You've Got the Money," to Nashville and returned with a Columbia Records contract. Released in 1950, the song became a hit and launched Lefty Frizzell's long career. The very next year, he had six songs that made the Top Ten on the country charts — a record that is still hard to equal. The honky-tonks had spawned another star.





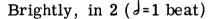




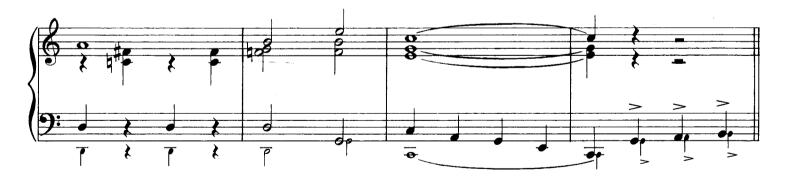
JUST BECAUSE

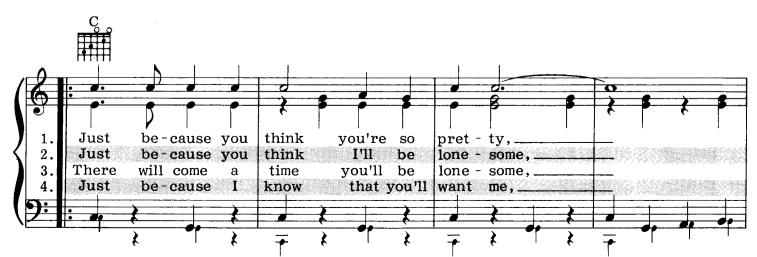
Words and Music by Bob Shelton, Joe Shelton and Sid Robin

During the 1930s, largely through the efforts of Decca Records, a number of groups from the Southwest became successful country performers. Among the first of these were The Shelton Brothers of Riley Springs, Texas, whose recordings of "Just Because" and "Deep Elem Blues" were early hits. "Just Because" was originally written by Hubert A. Nelson and James D. Touchstone but didn't become a hit until the Sheltons came along with their considerably revised version. It was inspired, Joe Shelton said, by a popular catchphrase of the time that served to answer almost any question — "Just because!" The McGuire Sisters had a pop hit with the "new" "Just Because" in 1961.

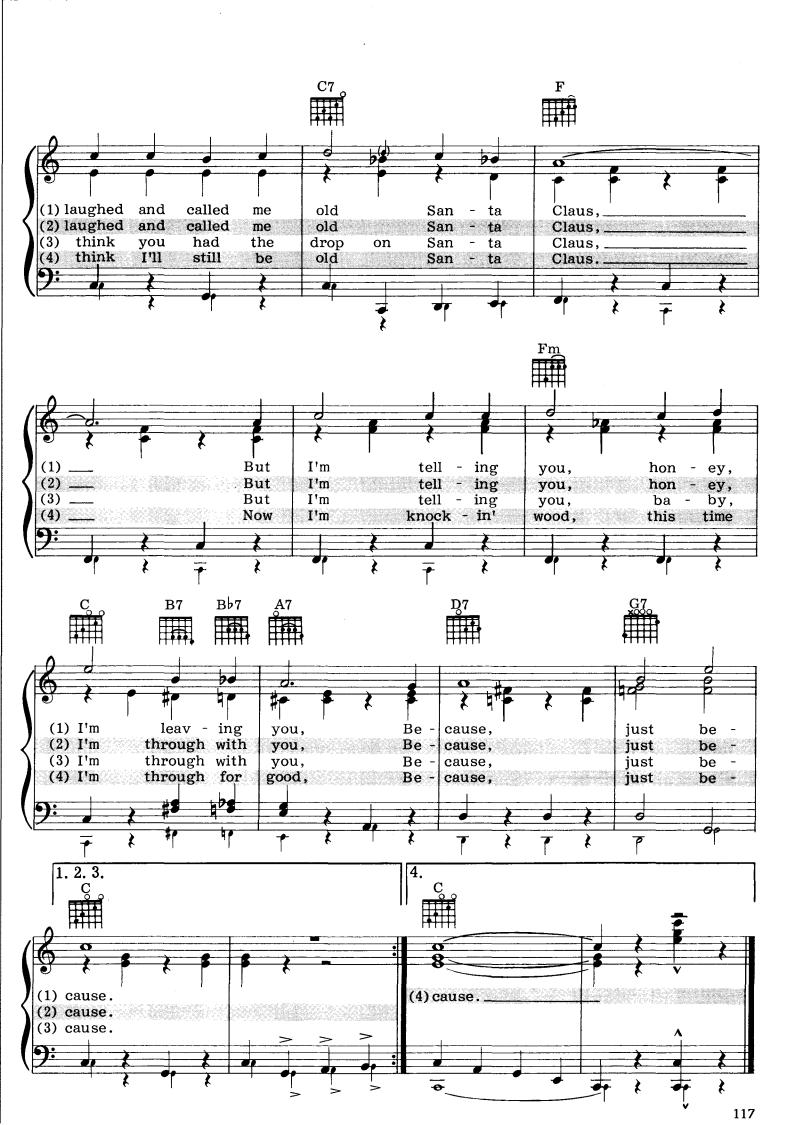








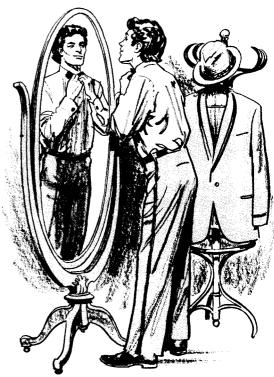




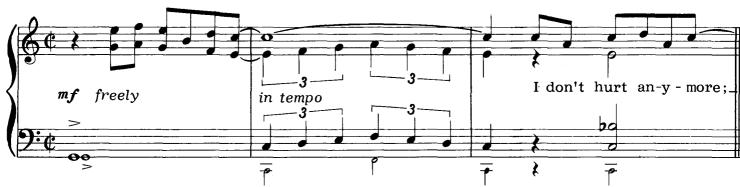
I Don't Hurt Anymore

Words by Jack Rollins; Music by Don Robertson

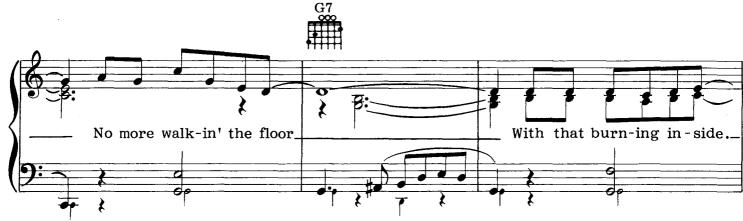
By the time he was 7, Don Robertson was already composing music. At 9, he met Carl Sandburg, who had recently finished his book American Songbag, and learned many folk and Western songs at the poet's knee. Therefore, it was no surprise that he became a professional musician while still in high school. In the early 1950s, he turned his talents to country songs, and after several lukewarm successes, he started writing solid hits. Hank Snow recorded Robertson and Jack Rollins' "I Don't Hurt Anymore" in 1954, and it reached No. 1 on the charts. That same year, Eddy Arnold provided Robertson with another hit recording of one of his songs, "I Really Don't Want to Know," which has since been recorded some 50 times, including the 1971 Top Ten rendition by Elvis Presley. Robertson has continued to turn out hit after hit, and today he has accumulated more than enough to fill a songbag of his own.

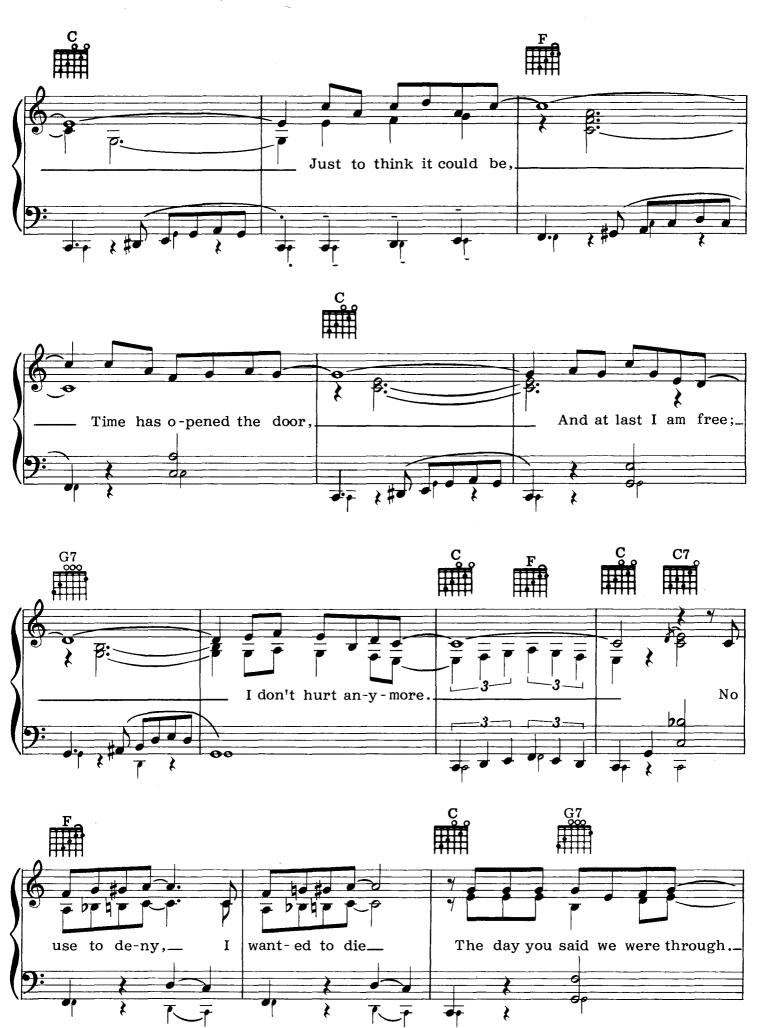


Moderately, with a lilt $(\Pi = J^3 J^3)$











Golden memories of the 40s



As more and more top entertainers were drawn to Nashville by Grand Ole Opry in the mid-1940s, publishing houses assembled staffs of professional songwriters to meet the demand for material. Acuff-Rose was one of the first to do so and Jenny Lou Carson one of their early writers. In 1944, she wrote and recorded "Jealous Heart." The song failed to become a country hit, but five years later, it



won pop honors for Al Morgan and his orchestra, and became an equally big rhythm-and-blues hit for Ivory Joe Hunter. It was often sung but, oddly, seldom recorded until the late 1970s, when it was revived successfully. It remains Miss Carson's biggest hit, though she also produced a number of lesser ones, including "Foolish Tears," "You Two-Timed Me Once Too Often" and "Don't Rob Another Man's Castle."

Slow country boogie mp1. Jeal-ous ous heart stop (1)heart, oh, jeal beat -Can't you ing. (2)filled my con-science full of sor - row. For I (3)heart. why did Ι let When you rule me (1) see the dam - age you have done? You have (2) know she Jeal - ous nev - er was untrue. (3) knew the end would bring me pain? Now she's







Words and Music by Redd Stewart and Pee Wee King

Grand Ole Opry stars Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart had just finished a string of dates in Texas and were driving back to Nashville when they heard Bill Monroe's "Kentucky Waltz" on their car radio. After commenting that it was odd that no one had ever done a "Tennessee Waltz," Stewart started writing some lyrics on the back of a matchbox. The song provided hits for King and Cowboy Copas, but its phenomenal success really dates to 1951, when Patti Page's recording hit the Top Ten on both the pop and country charts. In 1965, the state of Tennessee adopted the King-Stewart waltz as the official song of the Volunteer State.



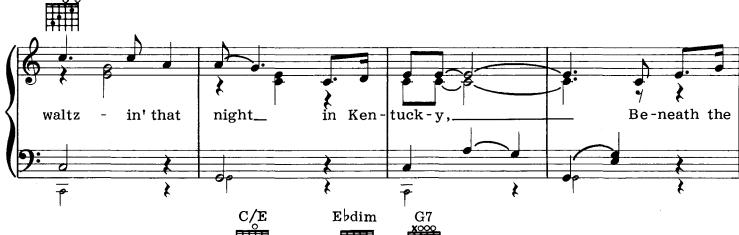


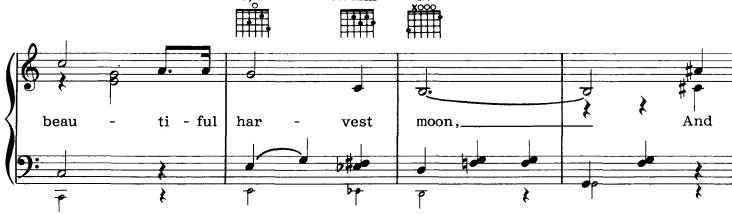


The original "Kentucky Waltz" was one of some 75 instrumentals that Bill Monroe wrote before he tried his hand at lyric writing. The 1934 version helped establish The Monroe Brothers as a major country act and became a mainstay in Bill's repertory when he

formed his famous Bluegrass Boys in 1938. He added a lyric to the tune and scored another success with it in 1946, but it was Eddy Arnold's 1951 recording that became a best-seller. Monroe was born in Kentucky, and his "bluegrass style" of unamplified instrumentals was the direct descendant of the string bands that flourished in the 1920s and featured a solo fiddle.









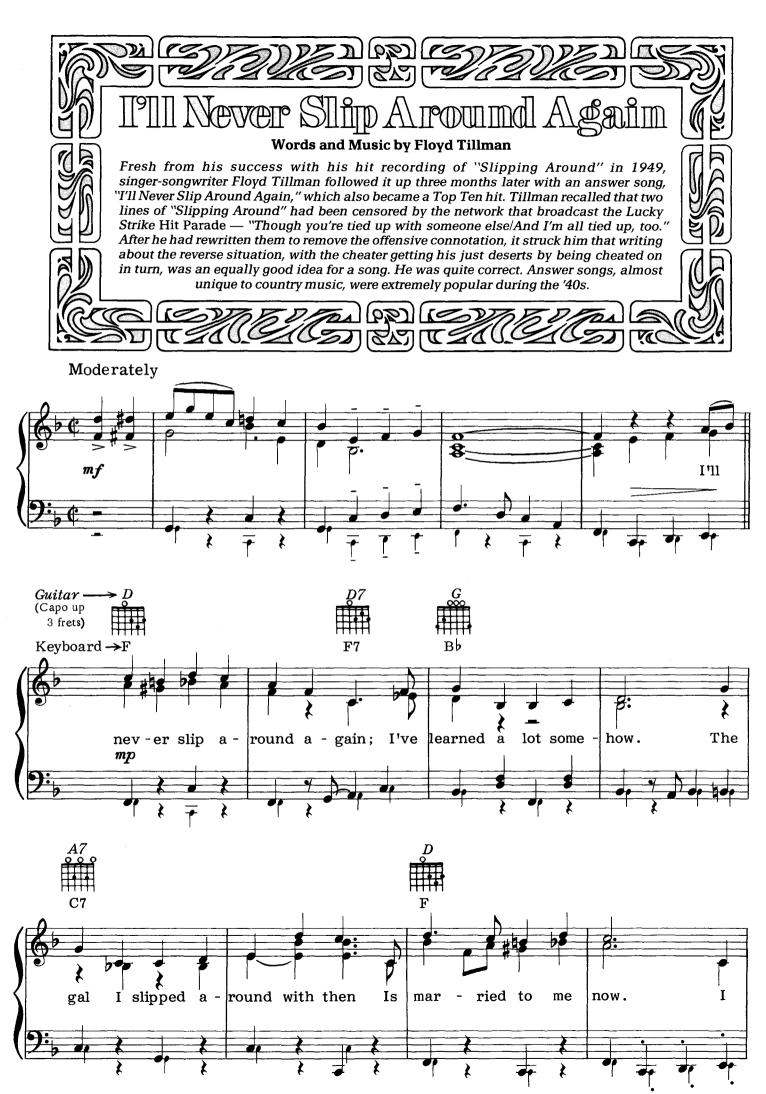




Floyd Tillman is better remembered as a songwriter than as an entertainer, although he turned out some major hits during the late 1940s. One of these was "Slipping Around," which, in 1949, provided Top Ten country records for Tillman and Ernest Tubb, and a crossover hit for the duet of Margaret Whiting and Jimmy Wakely. Like many country songs, "Slipping Around" was inspired by an actual incident — Tillman overheard a phone conversation in a roadhouse and remarked, "Poor girl, she's just like me, slipping around."









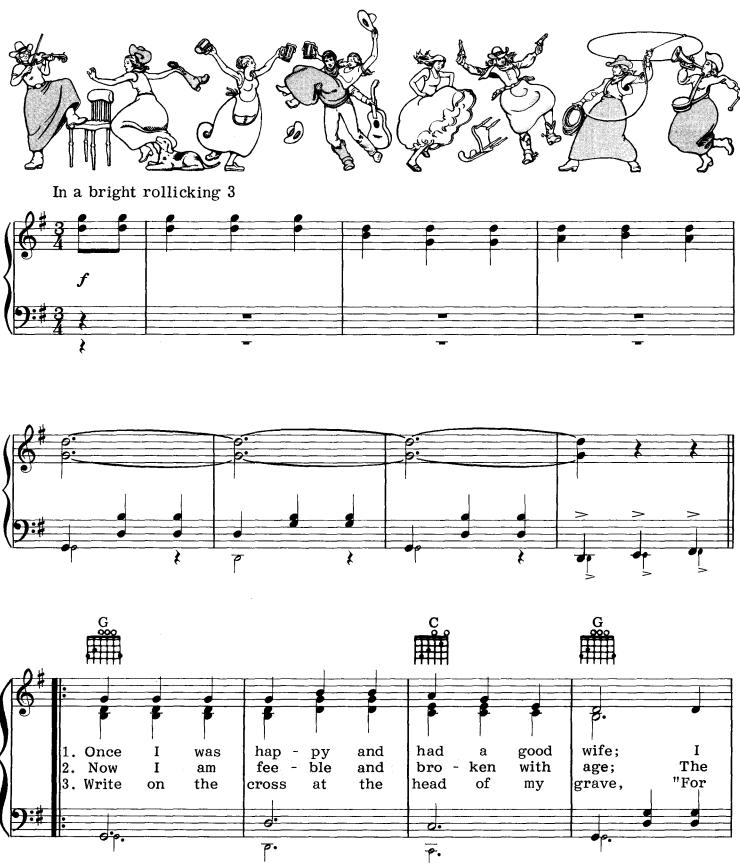


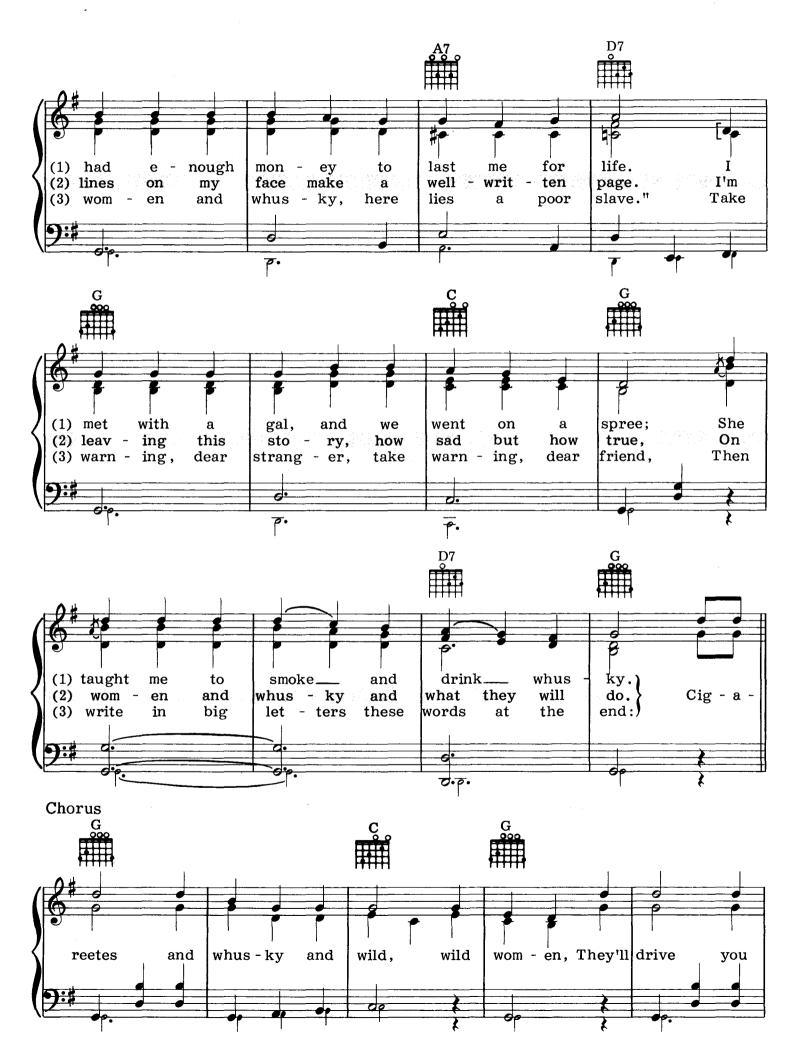
Gigareetes, whusky and wild, wild women

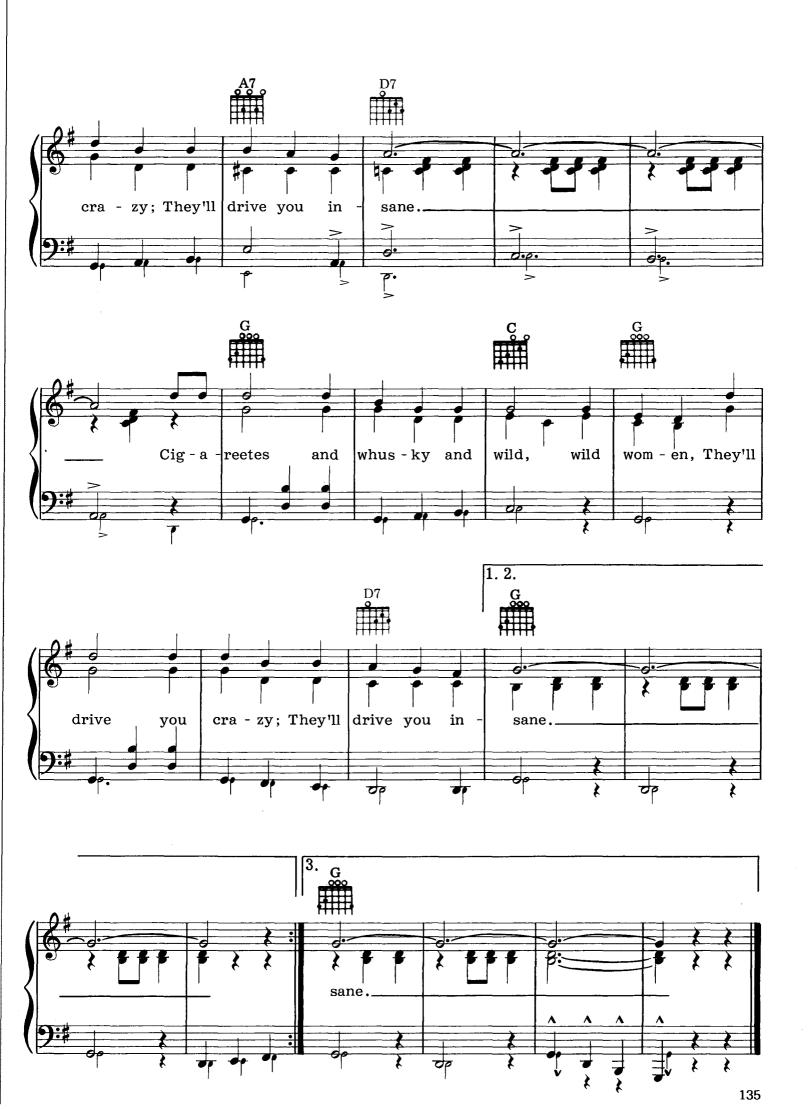
Words and Music by Tim Spencer

Tim Spencer was one of the original Sons of the Pioneers and wrote more than 250 Western melodies for the group and for its star alumnus, Roy Rogers. One of his biggest hits was a mock-serious moralizing story, "Cigareetes, Whusky and Wild, Wild Women." Tim's son, Hal, recalled that in 1947 his father was working in Louisville, Kentucky, with the Roy Rogers Circus. In their hotel, Tim's churchgoing wife lectured him on the kind of life he was

leading. He wrote this song in reply. Hal insists that the song was intended to be serious, but when it was first recorded by Red Ingle, Ingle "jazzed it up" and did a funny version. He also notes that the second verse, "the real moralizing one," is usually left out of recordings. (All three verses are included here.) Whether Tim's intention was to be serious or he had his tongue firmly planted in his cheek, he produced an all-time classic.



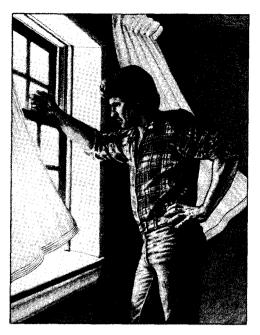


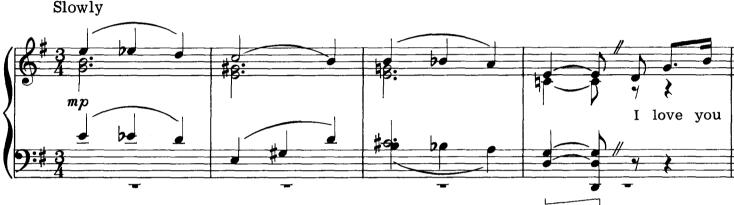


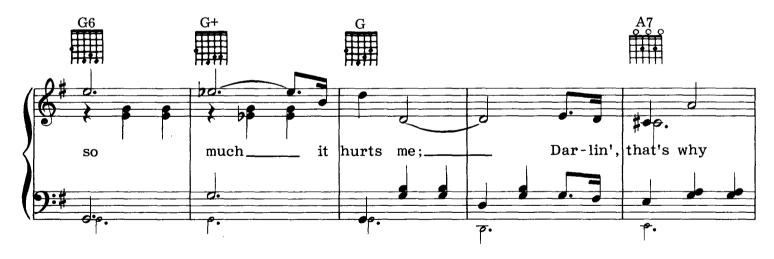
I Love You So Much It Hurts

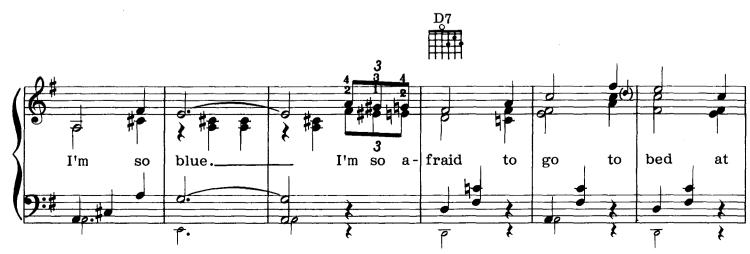
Words and Music by Floyd Tillman

Shortly after his discharge from the service following World War II, Floyd Tillman was sitting alone with his guitar, his fingers flat across the last four strings. He started strumming and, as he recalled, "the first four notes just said 'I love you so . . . , ' and then I improvised almost unconsciously. If any song ever came to me like automatic writing, this one did." Afraid that it wasn't "country," Tillman filed the song away but finally recorded it as part of an album in 1948. His "automatic writing" provided a Gold Record for him and major hits for Jimmy Wakely and The Mills Brothers.











Ry JA Ry JA

Words and Music by **Herbert Happy Lawson** When first introduced in 1921, "Any Time" was a minor success, but it was the 1948 Eddy Arnold version that assured its survival as a standard. Arnold's hit country recording was followed in 1951 by Eddie Fisher's pop rendition, which sold more than a million copies. Patsy Cline had recorded "Any Time" before she died in a plane crash in 1963, and when her recording was finally released six years later, it placed among the 100 top sellers on the country charts.





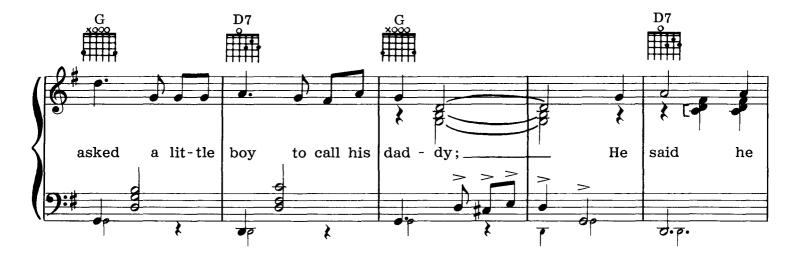
My Daddy Is Only a Picture

Words and Music by Tommy Dilbeck

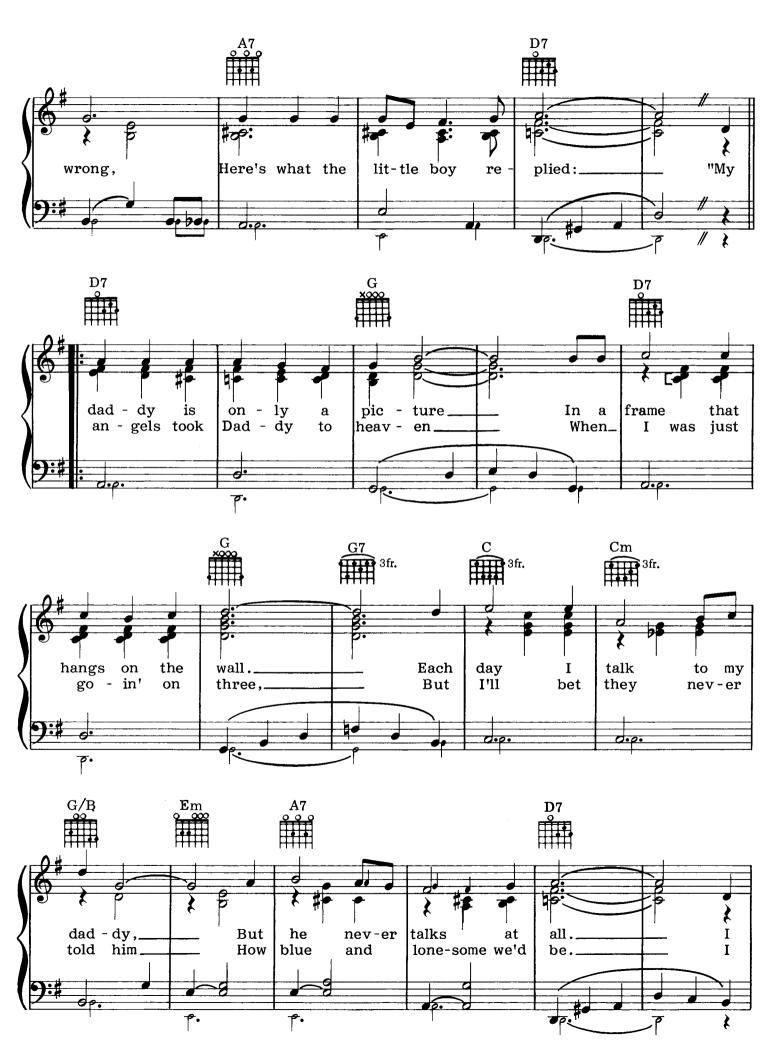
In 1947, Eddy Arnold, whose record output for RCA Victor then exceeded two and a half million discs, was well on his way to becoming that company's best-selling recording artist. During 1948, he scored with five No. 1 hits and others that made the Top Ten, including "My Daddy Is Only a Picture," written by musician and songwriter Tommy Dilbeck, who occasionally collaborated with Arnold. Though Arnold had only made his first record in 1944, his featured role on Grand Ole Opry and the regularity with which he turned out hits made him the nation's best-known country music performer, surpassing even Roy Acuff. As he smoothed and mellowed his singing style, the former "Tennessee Plowboy" tended more and more toward pop styling and song selection — away from the sentiments of songs such as this one. Apparently, the change did little to diminish his popularity.

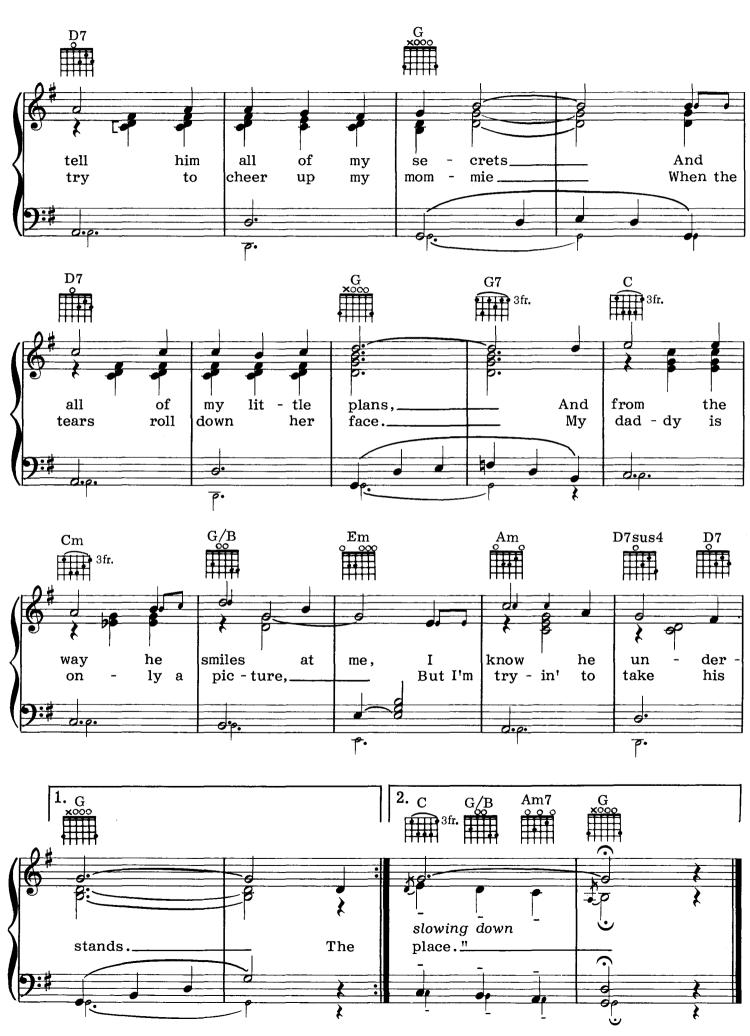












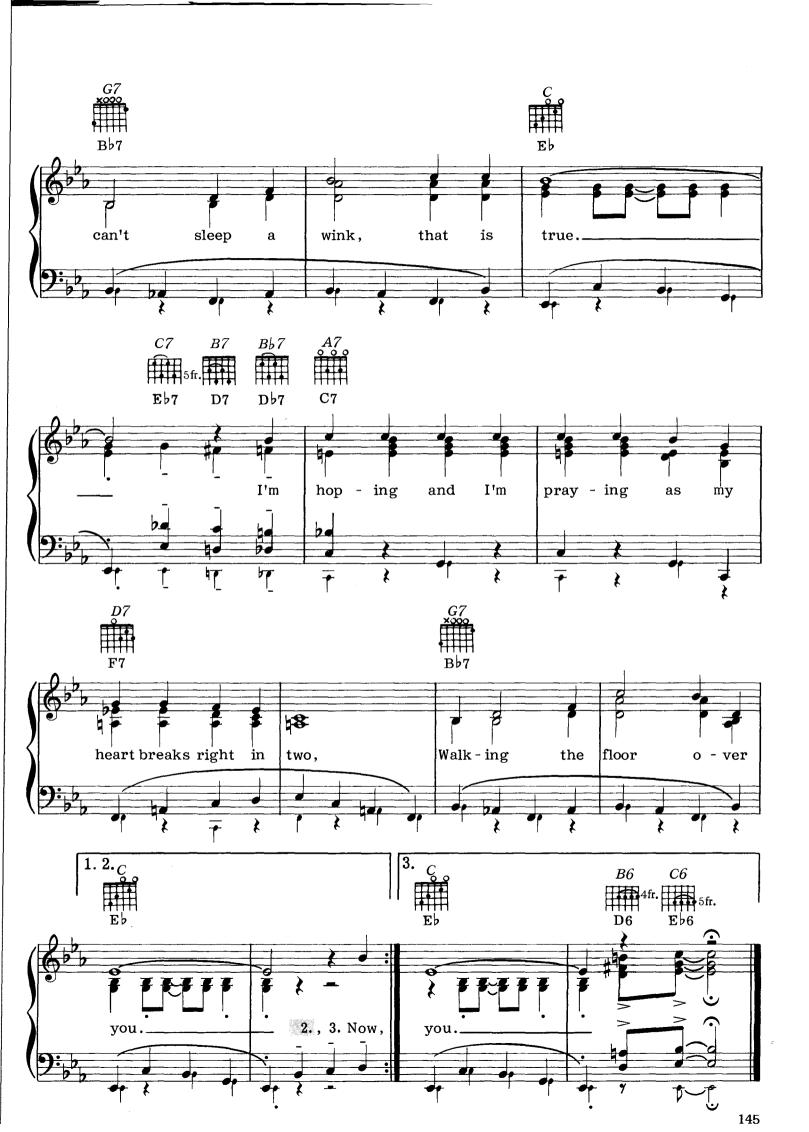
Walking the Floor Over You

Words and Music by Ernest Tubb

Seldom has a song been so closely identified with an artist as this one is with its composer, Ernest Tubb. It was his first major hit, a turning point in his career, and has been his theme song for 40 years. The year 1941 was discouraging for the young artist. Despite a Decca recording contract and a commercially sponsored radio show in Fort Worth, he was still earning only \$75 a week and gave serious consideration to abandoning his career to work in a defense plant. Then Decca producer Dave Kapp came to town, and Tubb recorded four new songs he had ready. He had been working on "Walking the Floor Over You," and at his urging, Kapp agreed that it would be released first. It became an all-time hit, earning Tubb a Gold Record and a bid to join Grand Ole Opry, where he became a regular in 1943. Due to the record's success, Tubb, for many years, was allowed to choose his own material — perhaps the only Decca artist to do so. He was named to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1965.









Words and Music by Jimmie Hodges

In an RCA Victor recording by Elton Britt, "Someday (You'll Want Me to Want You)" was one of the biggest country hits of 1946. Britt's fame had been well established with his World War II classic recording of "There's a Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere," which sold more than 4 million copies in both the pop and

country markets. In 1949, The Mills Brothers and Vaughn Monroe recorded "Someday," and their versions established the song as a pop standard. It was written by Jimmie Hodges, an entertainer and Tin Pan Alley songwriter, producer and publisher, whose output included "Lonely Nights" and "Dear Old Girl of Mine."





BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES

Traditional

Though "Beautiful Brown Eyes" is officially considered a traditional song, many different versions exist, and some scholars believe that it was composed (or recomposed) by two early country artists, "Fiddlin'" Arthur Smith and Alton Delmore of The Delmore Brothers. Early Opry stars, Smith and The Delmores recorded as The Dixieliners and as The Arthur Smith Trio on the Bluebird label, which first released this song. During the 1940s, the early string bands were upstaged by the emerging Opry superstars, and their members fell into relative obscurity until they were rediscovered during the folk-music revival of the 1960s. In 1951, Western movie star Jimmy Wakely made a hit out of "Beautiful Brown Eyes." Wakely had broken with Margaret Whiting, with whom he formed one of the most successful duets in country music history, to make a bid as a solo artist, but his career never really took off. The song, however, has become a true classic.





BOWATEARTIES REPUREAT

Words and Music by Pee Wee King and Redd Stewart

This was Pee Wee King's first hit and remained his "baby," despite the fact that his "Tennessee Waltz" became a much bigger seller. "Bonaparte's Retreat" started life as a fiddle tune, introduced to King's band, The Golden West Cowboys, by one of his three fiddlers, who had heard it years before. It became a standard in the band's repertory,

and in 1946 King added lyrics. (The Copyright Office allowed him rights to the bridge, or middle portion of the song, and the arrangement.) King's recording became a best-seller and brought him to national attention. Carl Smith revived the song in 1970, and Glen Campbell's 1974 version became a Top Ten success.

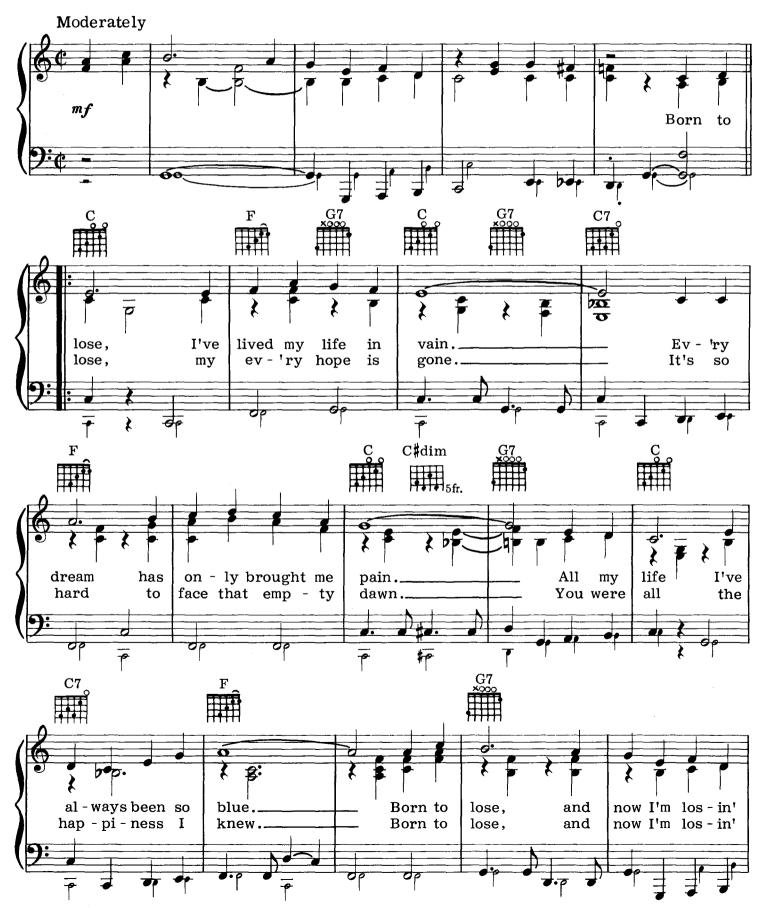




EORN TOLOSE

Words and Music by Ted Daffan

World War II interrupted record production and broke up many successful country bands. Before disbanding, Ted Daffan and His Texans recorded 24 final sides for Columbia — all of them Daffan compositions. When the company resumed record production in 1943, it released back-to-back recordings of "Born to Lose" and "No Letter Today." Both became huge successes and remained on jukeboxes across the nation through 1945. "Born to Lose," Daffan's touching tale of unrequited love which earned him a Gold Record, remains a favorite of pop and country performers alike, and, by 1971, had been recorded by some 120 artists ranging from Red Foley to Ray Charles.





I LOVE YOU BECAUSE

Words and Music by Leon Payne

Leon Payne's widow, Myrtie, said that he wrote this song for her. Blind from childhood, Payne developed his musical talents, mastering a number of instruments and composing. By the time he was 21, he was playing with fellow Texan Bob Wills but left to hitchhike around the state, playing and singing as he went. His travels inspired the country standard "Lost Highway." In 1949, he formed his own group and recorded "I Love You Because," which made the Top Ten and was on the charts for weeks. It has since provided hits for many artists.





PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA

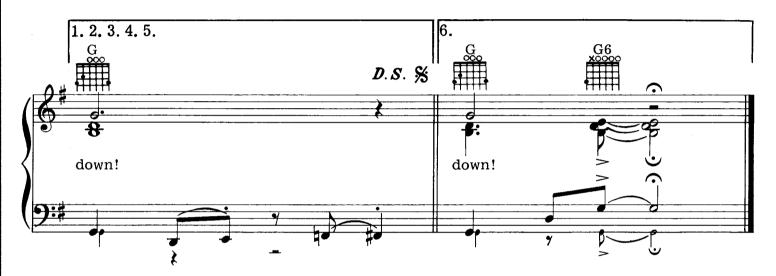
Words and Music by Al Dexter

Bandleader, singer and songwriter Al Dexter was no stranger to the honky-tonks of Texas or to the occasionally violent domestic scenes that took place in them. One night, he witnessed the wife of a cheating husband chasing "the other woman" with a pistol and wondered, "How do you talk to a lady with a gun?" His answer took the form of "Pistol Packin' Mama," a huge novelty hit in 1943. Bing Crosby and The Andrews Sisters "covered" it in a popular version that sold a million records, and it was used as the title song for a Republic film.









Additional Verses

3.	G Drinkin' beer in a cabaret,
	* * * * D7
	And dancing with a blonde,
	Until one night she shot out the light;
	G Bang! that blonde was gone.
	bung. that bionae was gone.
	(Chorus)

- Bang! that blonde was gone.

 (Chorus)

 G
 4. I'll see you ev'ry night, babe;

 D7

 I'll woo you ev'ry day;

 I'll be your regular daddy

 G

 If you'll put that gun away.

 (Chorus)
- 5. Drinkin' beer in a cabaret,

 D7

 And was I havin' fun!

 Until one night she caught me right,

 G

 And now I'm on the run.

 (Chorus)
- G
 6. Now there was old Al Dexter,

 D7
 He always had his fun,

 But with some lead, she shot him dead;

 G
 His honkin' days are done.

 (Chorus to last ending)

*Note: lines indicate accented beats.

Cill City Suc

Words by Ray Freedman; Music by Dick Thomas

When country singer and Western film star Gene Autry returned to Hollywood in 1945 after serving in the Army Air Corps, he found that his top billing at Republic Pictures had been assumed by Roy Rogers. Gene made a few films at Republic, then moved on to Columbia Pictures, where he was able to negotiate a better deal. "Sioux City Sue" was the title song of his first postwar picture in 1947. Written by Ray Freedman and Dick Thomas, the song was introduced on a

That's

But

'Cause

how

still

Ι

come

start - ed

to

Ne

be

court - in'

bras-ka

Ι

1

come from



recording by Thomas in 1945. After the Autry film was released, the song's bouncy tune and catchy lyrics caught on, and singers ranging from Merle Travis to Bing Crosby recorded it. In the late 1940s, Autry's career resumed its momentum. He produced a number of hits, including such Christmas standards as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman" and "Here Comes Santa Claus," and also began building his corporate empire.



The

My

To

state

 \mathbf{of}

sweet Sioux Cit - y

find Sioux Cit -

(1) way.

(2) few,"

(3) you,





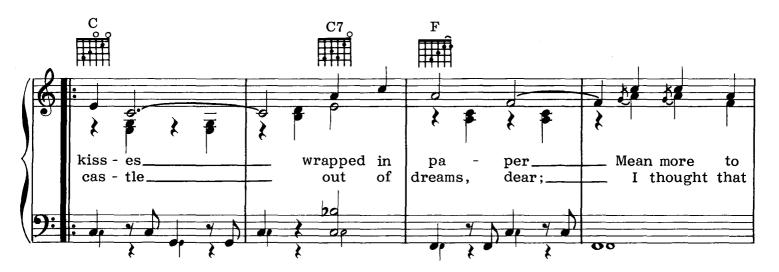


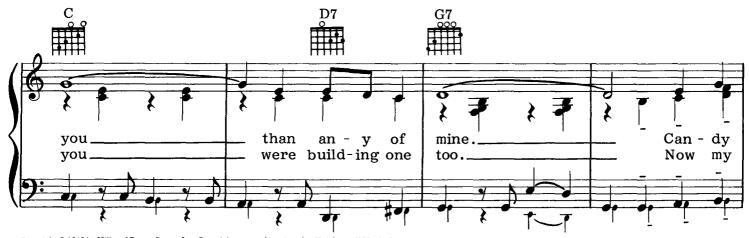
Words and Music by George Morgan

An invitation to join Grand Ole Opry usually means that a performer is well on the way to becoming a star, but seldom does this happen with such suddenness as it did with George Morgan. Fresh from radio station WWVA's Jamboree in Wheeling, West Virginia, he joined the Opry in 1948 and late that year introduced his own song "Candy Kisses" on the air. It became one of the top songs of 1949 and won the 23-year-old Morgan star billing on station WSM in Nashville. Both Red Foley and Elton Britt covered it with Top Ten records of their own. Morgan recalled that he had written the song in 10 minutes while he was in Ohio doing his own 15-minute radio show and had premiered it on the air that same morning. Morgan's recording easily passed the million mark in sales, and "Candy Kisses" was his theme song throughout his long career.

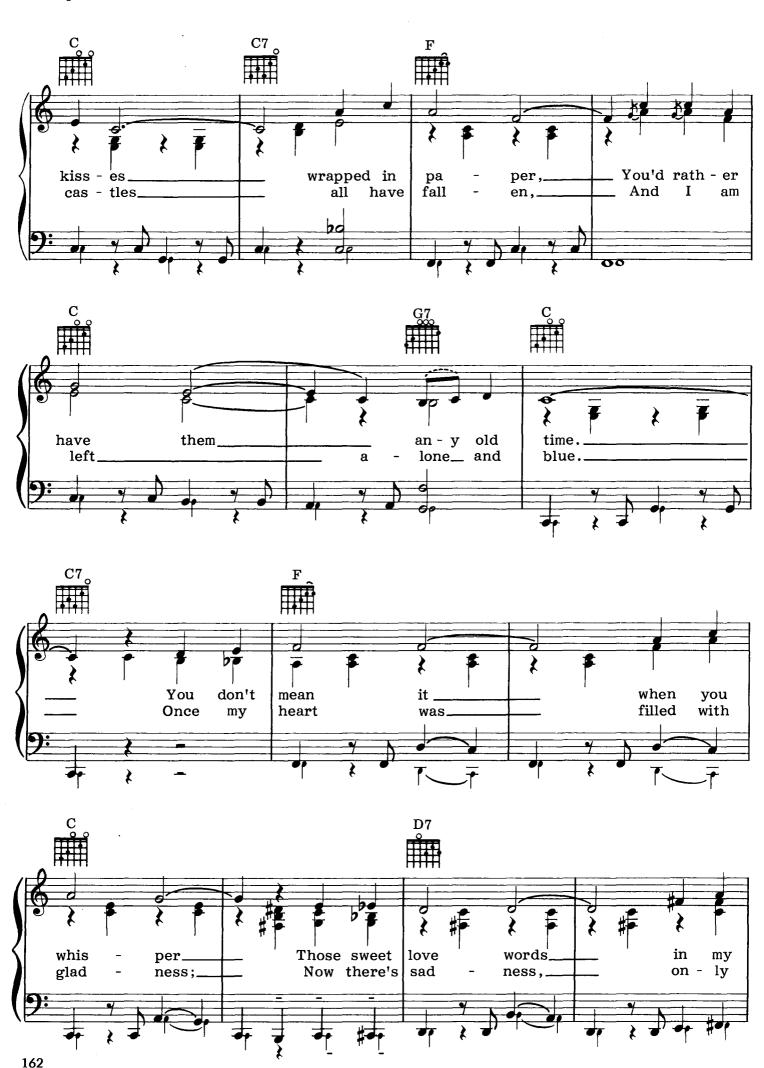


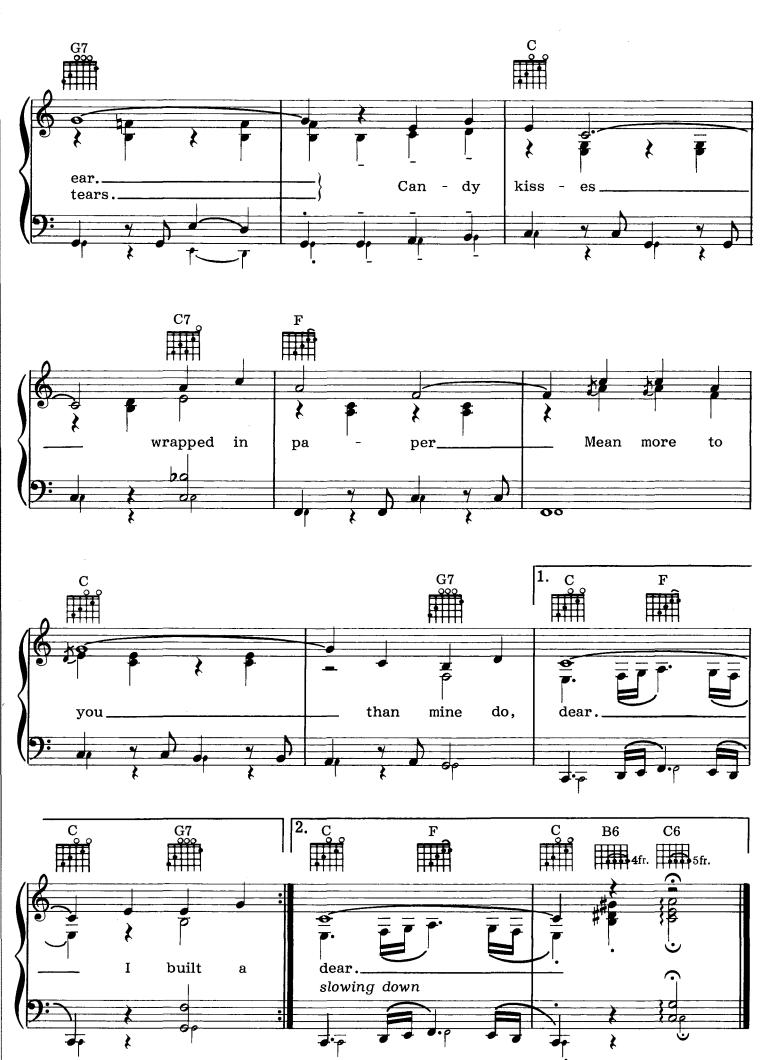






Candy Kisses





Words and Music by Tim Spencer

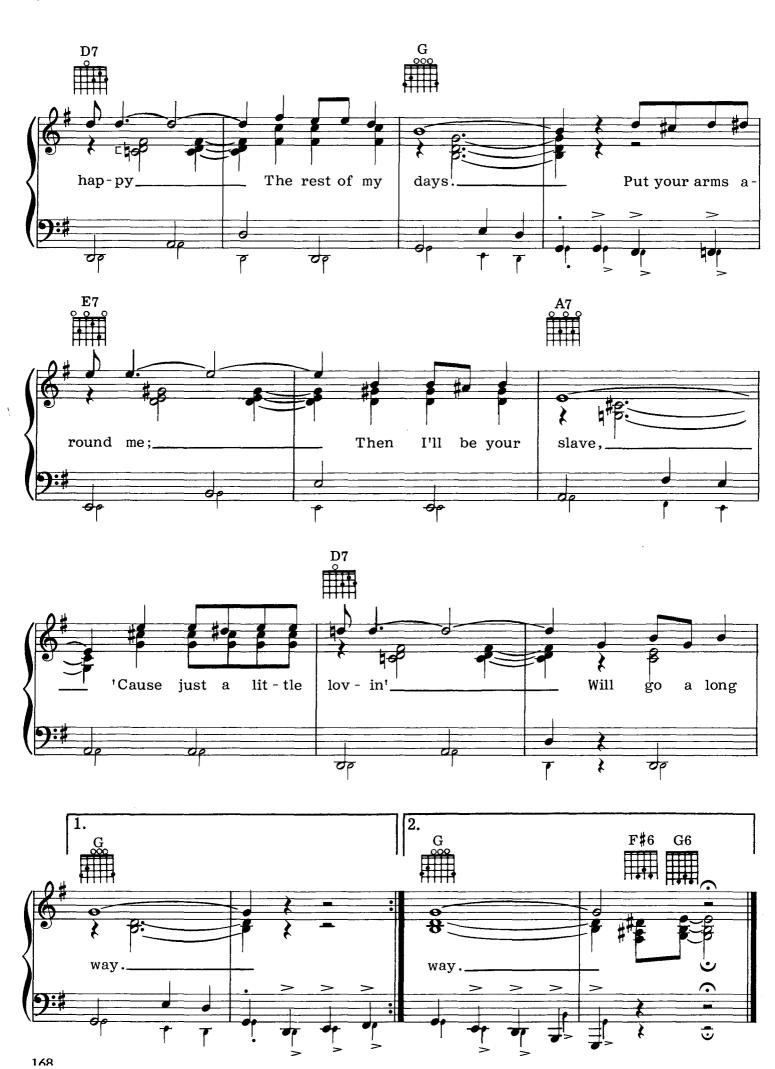
In 1930, young Tim Spencer joined two other Western artists, Roy Rogers and Bob Nolan, to form the original Sons of the Pioneers. Both Nolan and Spencer were songwriters as well as singers, and Spencer's output for the Pioneers over the next 30 years topped 250 songs. In addition, he had several hit recordings of his own in the late 1940s, including "Cigareetes, Whusky and Wild, Wild Women" and "Room Full of Roses." His "Careless Kisses" was a 1950 chart song for Red Foley, who is considered one of the true pioneers of modern country music. Foley was featured on Grand Ole Opry and headed one of the first network radio country shows and a TV show, Ozark Jubilee, that ran for six years in the late 1950s and introduced many country stars.

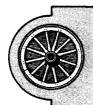












SECTION SIX Pages 169-198 WESTERN CLASSICS



Wagon Wheels

By 1934, the romantic image of the singing cowboy was already very much a part of American popular art, thanks to movies and "hillbilly" records, and the cowboy's influence had spread as far as Tin Pan Alley and Broadway. New York-based songwriters Billy Hill and Peter De Rose teamed up that year to pen a Western classic, "Wagon Wheels,"

which was introduced by popular singer Everett Marshall in The Ziegfeld Follies of 1934 and quickly picked up by Western bands in the Southwest. Eddy Arnold, Tex Ritter and a host of others recorded the song, but the most enduring version was the one by The Sons of the Pioneers, which featured Hugh Farr and Ken Curtis on vocals.

Words by Billy Hill

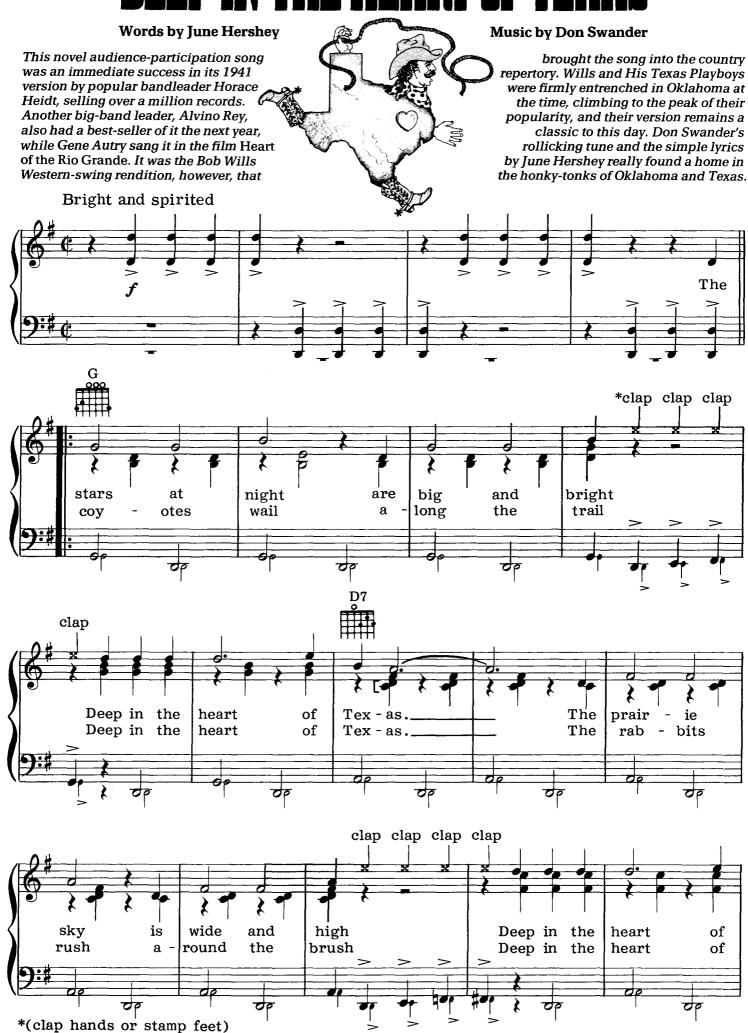
Guitar C (Capo up 3 frets) Music by Peter De Rose







DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS



Copyright © 1941 by Melody Lane Publications, Inc. Copyright renewed. Used by permission.



Tumbling Tumbleveces

Words and Music by Bob Nolan

In 1930, Bob Nolan joined Tim Spencer and Roy Rogers to form the original Sons of the Pioneers. "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," one of the hundreds of songs Nolan wrote for the group, was among the first they recorded and became their theme song. Gene Autry introduced it as the title song in his first full-length movie in 1935, and Rogers sang it in Silver Spurs in 1943 and, with The Sons of the Pioneers, in Hollywood Canteen the following year.





EMPTY SADDLES

Words and Music by Billy Hill

In 1936, Bing Crosby played what he often called his favorite role—that of a cattleman turned rodeo performer in the film Rhythm on the Range. In it, Crosby introduced a classic Billy Hill song, "Empty Saddles." Hill's Boston background and classical music training made him an unlikely Western songwriter, but his early travels gave him a flair for the romantic West, which he captured in such perennial favorites as "The Last Round-Up," "The Call of the Canyon" and "The Oregon Trail."





When Slim Willet released one of his own compositions in late 1952, he thought it was a good song but didn't know that it would account for not just one but six hit recordings. As the Willet recording climbed to the top of the country hit lists, it was covered by Skeets McDonald and Ray Price on competing labels, and for several weeks, all three versions were among the Top Ten. Then Red Foley's rendition was released in early 1953, and it, too, became a

Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Hyes

Words and Music by Slim Willet, Cactus Pryor and Barbara Trammel



best-seller, as did Perry Como's recording in the pop market. Finally, Willet wrote an answer song called "I Let the Stars Get in My Eyes" that provided a hit for Goldie Hill. Born Winston Lee Moore in Dublin, Texas, Willet was a familiar figure on many of the radio barn dances. He based the irregular meter and form of "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes" on those of a Mexican ranchera, a type of cowboy song that is heard on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border.



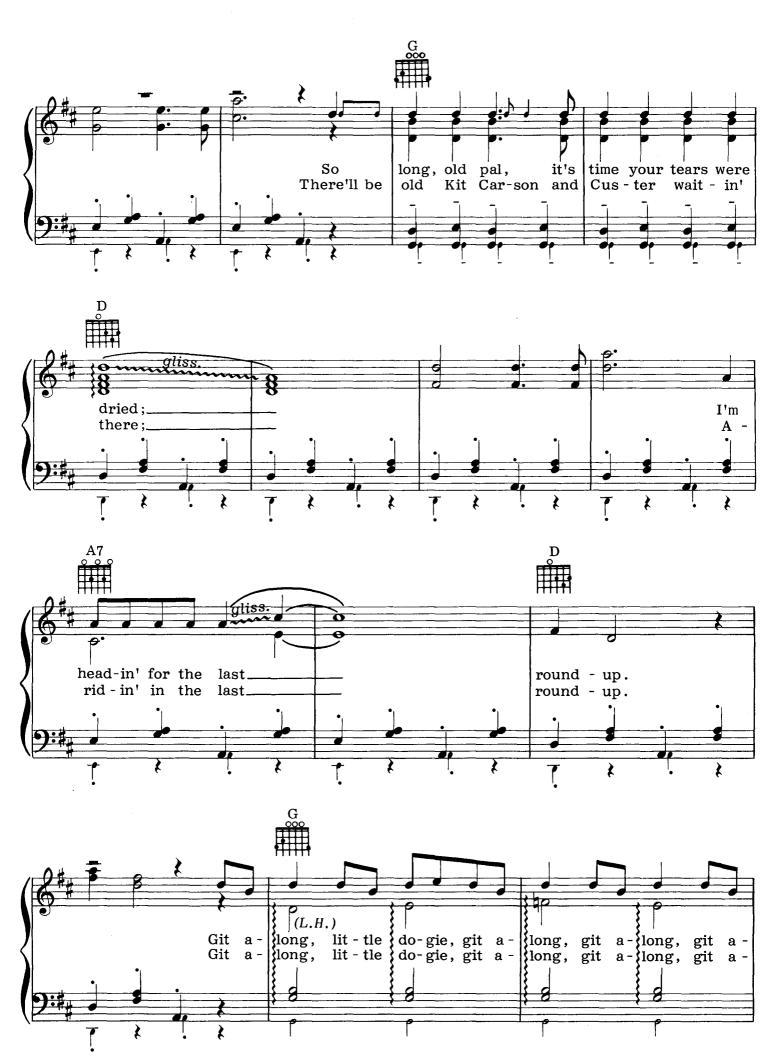


THE LAST ROUND-UP

Words and Music by Billy Hill

For a time, Billy Hill was a classical violinist employed with The Boston Symphony, but as a young man, he toured the West, riding the rails, cowpunching and absorbing its legends and lore. Returning to New York, he wrote a number of Western ballads that became popular hits and survived to become country classics. The most famous of them was "The Last Round-Up," written in 1933 and introduced that year at New York's Paramount Theater by Joe Morrison. Don Ross sang it in The Ziegfeld Follies of 1934, and Bing Crosby turned it into one of his earliest successful recordings. Finally, cowboys took it up. Roy Rogers' version was instrumental in landing him a film contract with Republic Pictures, and he sang it in the 1945 film Don't Fence Me In. Gene Autry also recorded it and sang it in two films, The Singing Hills (1941) and The Last Roundup (1947).







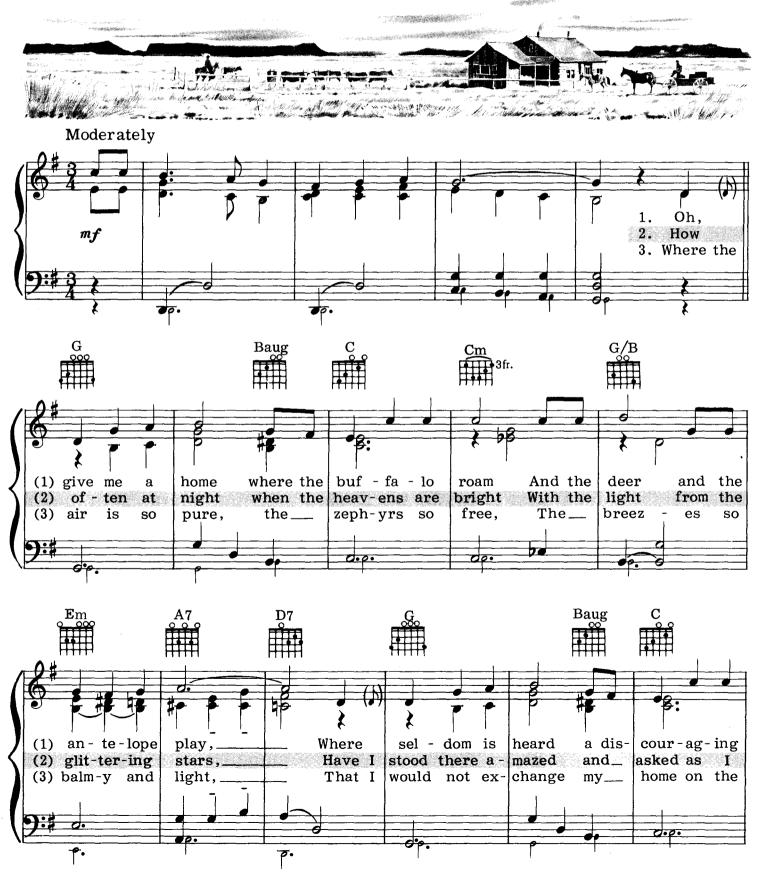


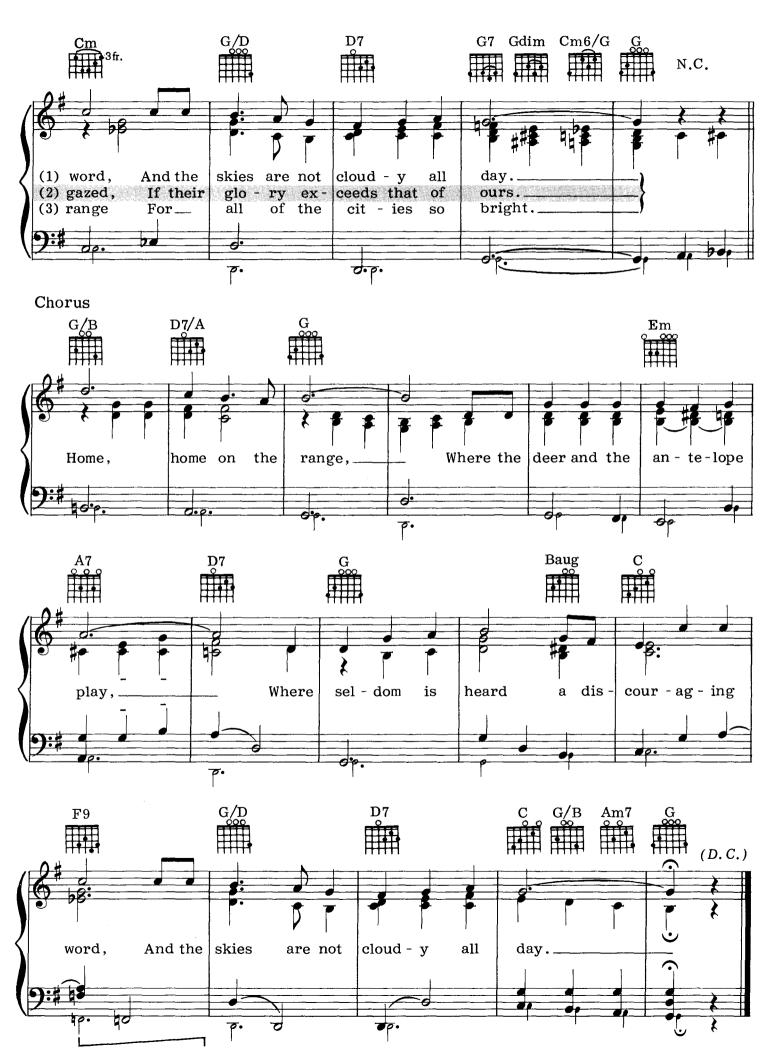
Home on the Range

Words by Brewster M. Higley; Music by Daniel E. Kelley; Adapted and arranged by Dan Fox

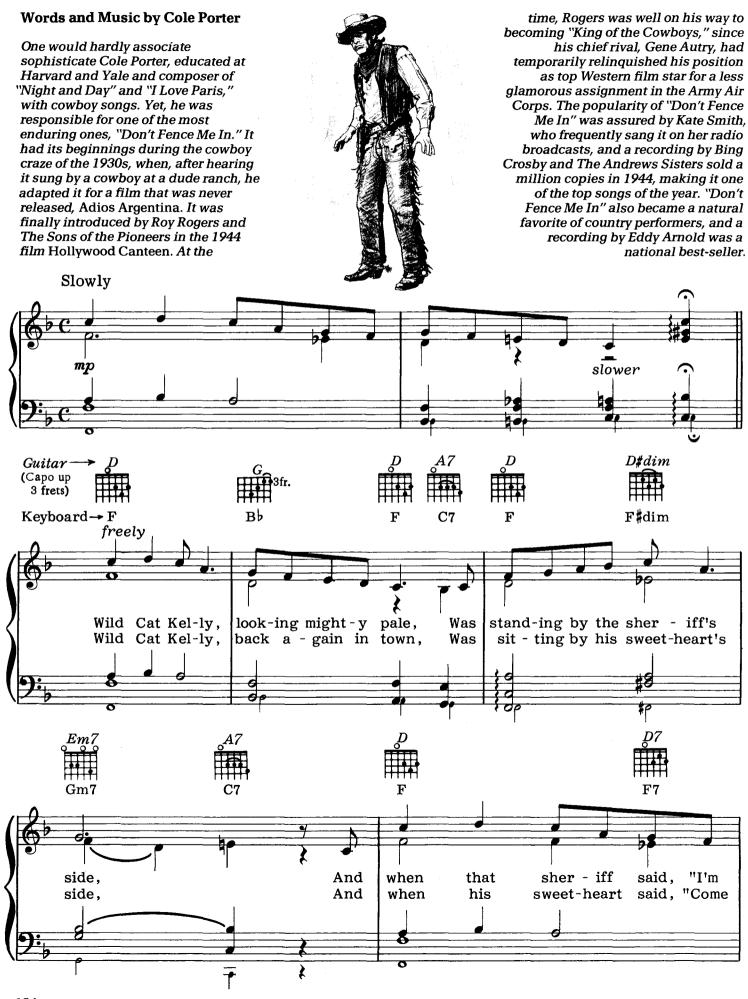
Though many would argue that this is a folk song, authorship is generally attributed to Brewster Higley, a Kansas homesteader who published the words in a Smith County newspaper in 1873, and Daniel Kelley, a guitar player from nearby Gaylord, Kansas, who added the music. Words and music were first printed together in 1904 under the title "An Arizona Home," with composer

credit given to a William Goodwin, but Goodwin's claim was dismissed in 1934. The song's popularity dates to 1910, when folklorist Alan Lomax published it in his anthology Cowboy Songs. Lomax described it as "the cowboy's national anthem," despite the fact that the "range" described in "Home on the Range" was that of the homesteader, not the cattleman.

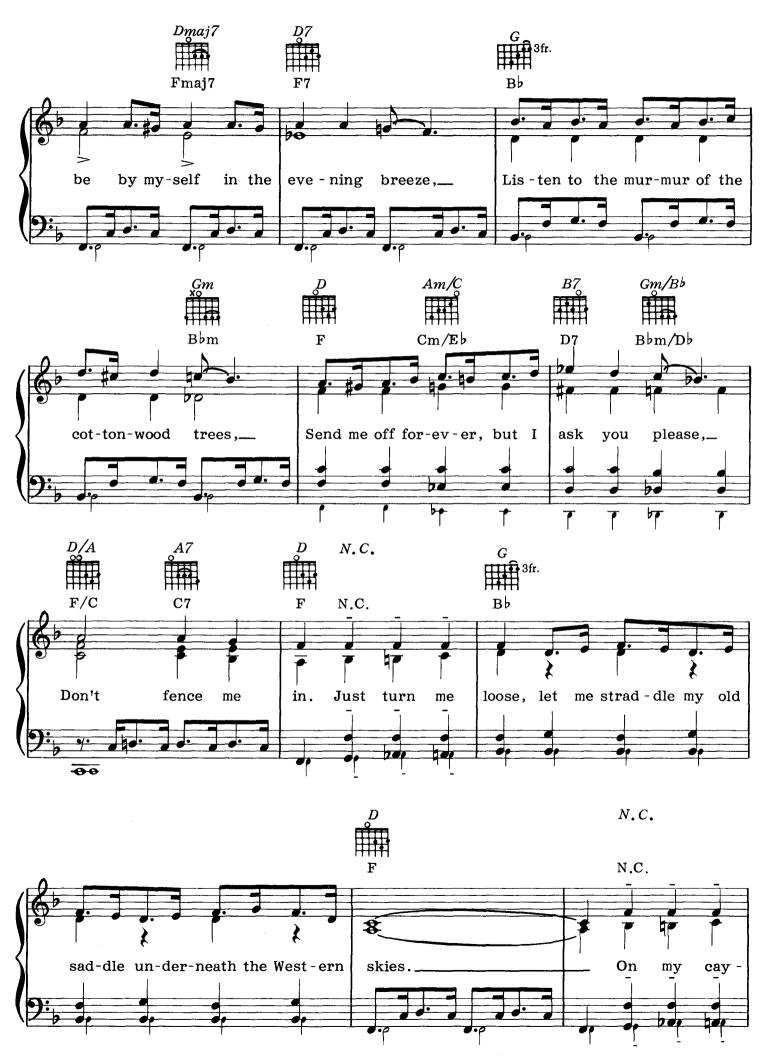




Don't Fence Me In

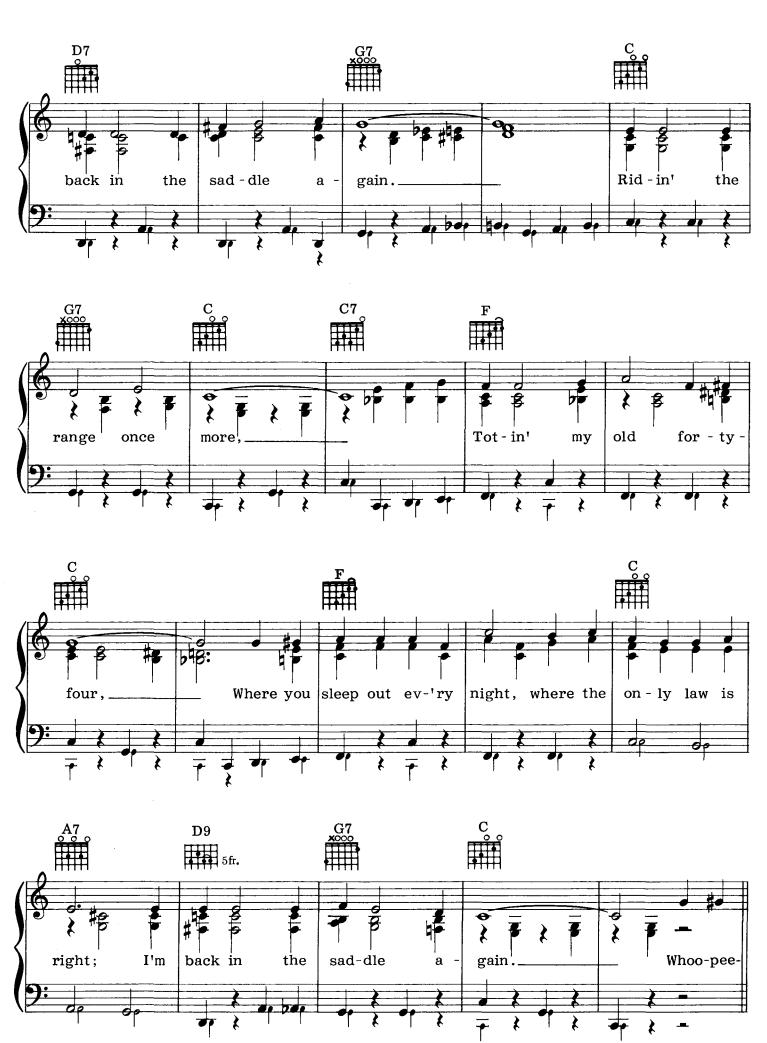












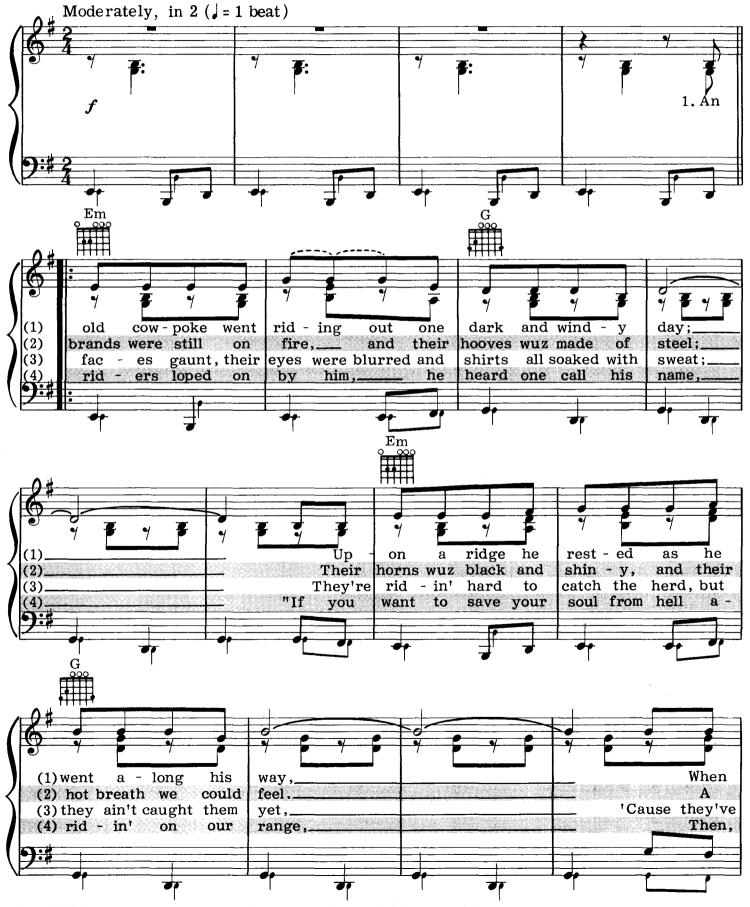


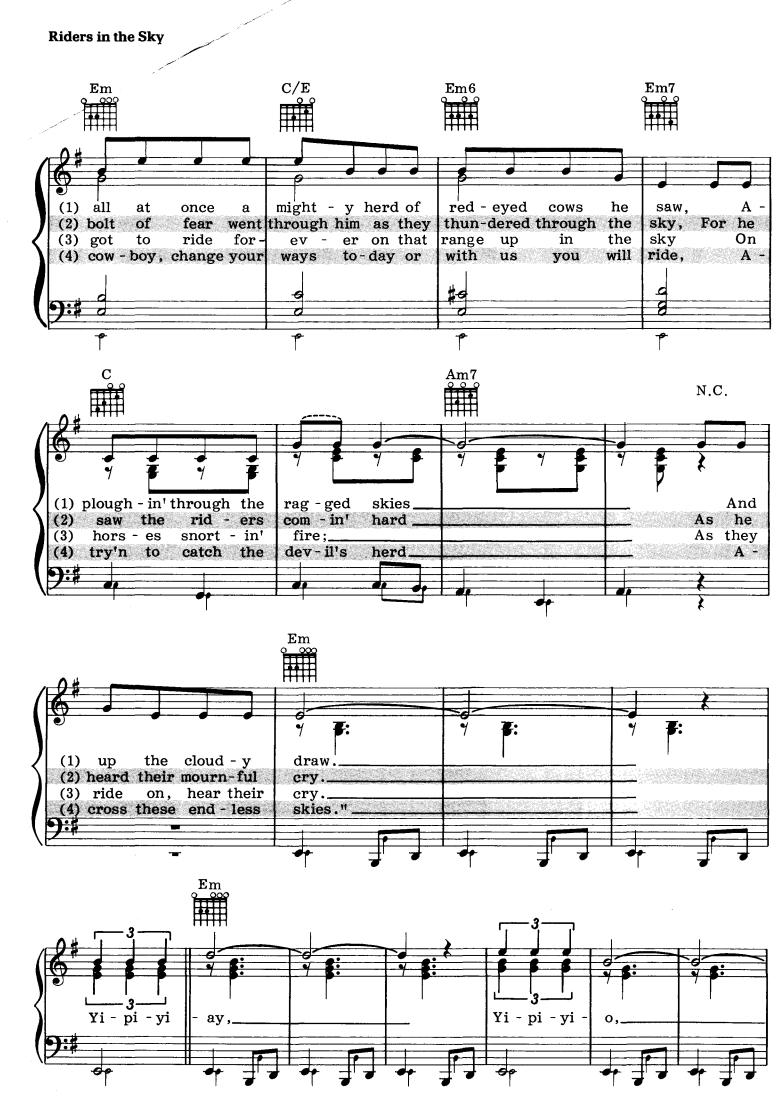
Riders in the Sky

Words and Music by Stan Jones

By 1949, country music was at the peak of its postwar popularity, and Tin Pan Alley writers turned out a number of authentic-sounding Western songs like "Mule Train," "The Cry of the Wild Goose" and "Riders in the Sky." Written by Arizona-born actor and screenwriter Stan

Jones, the last song had deeper country roots than most. Though it was introduced by Burl Ives, it was Vaughn Monroe's million-selling RCA recording that accounted for the real success of "Riders in the Sky." Gene Autry sang it in the 1949 Columbia film of the same name.







OEE PAITHFUL

Words and Music by Michael Carr and Joseph Hamilton Kennedy

The popularity of the cowboy and the romanticized Old West spread well beyond the borders of the United States during the 1930s. "Ole Faithful," one of the most beloved Western favorites, was actually written by two Englishmen. Michael Carr turned out several good sellers, including "He Wears a Pair of Silver Wings," "The Gentleman Obviously Doesn't Believe" and "South of the Border" (written with Jimmy Kennedy, Joseph's brother). Joseph Kennedy is best remembered for "The Chestnut Tree." "Ole Faithful" was introduced in this country by Hank Snow in 1934 and subsequently recorded by Rex Allen, Eddy Arnold and The Sons of the Pioneers.











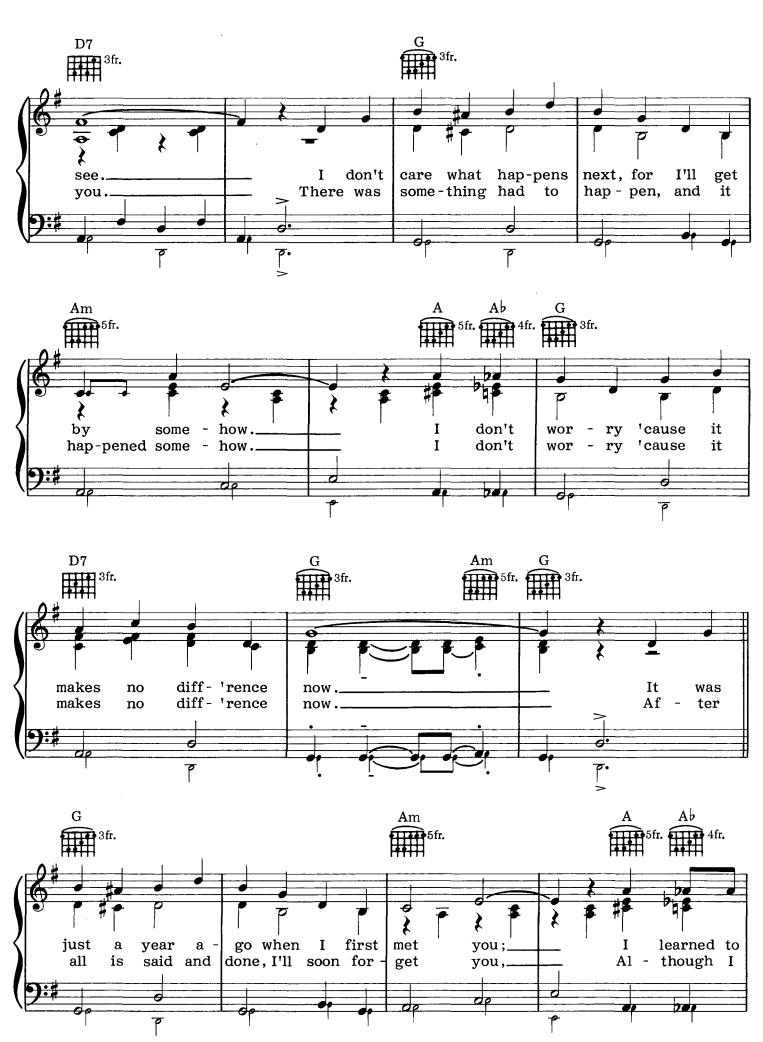
Section Seven









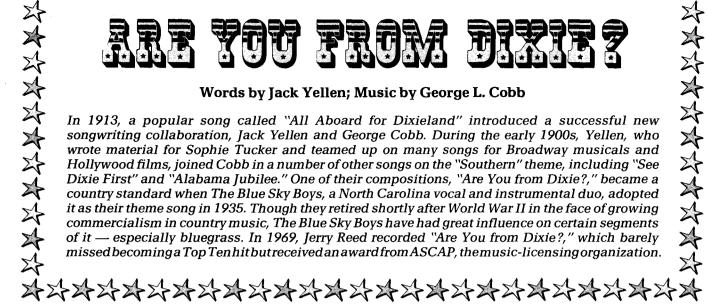


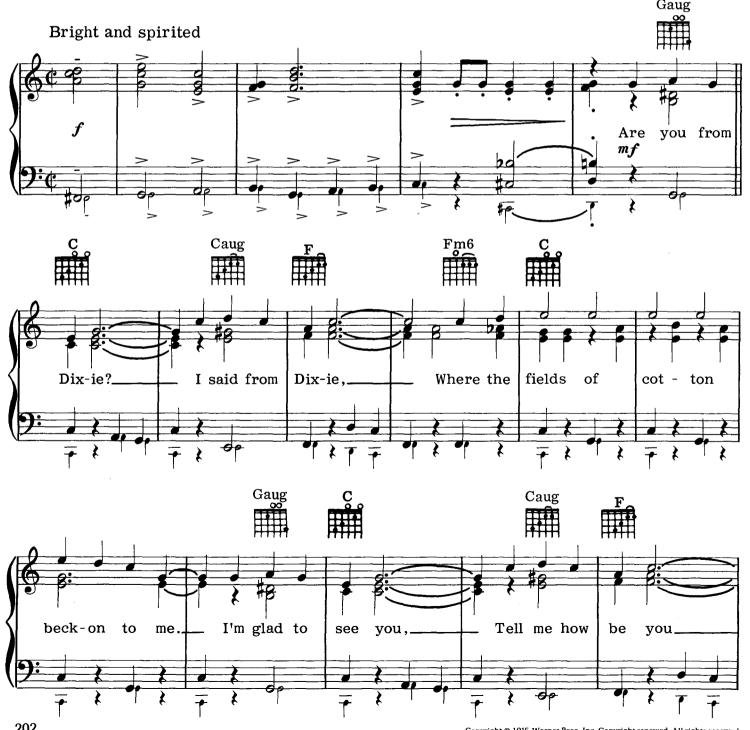


女众女公女公女公女公女公女公女公女公女公女公女公女

Words by Jack Yellen; Music by George L. Cobb

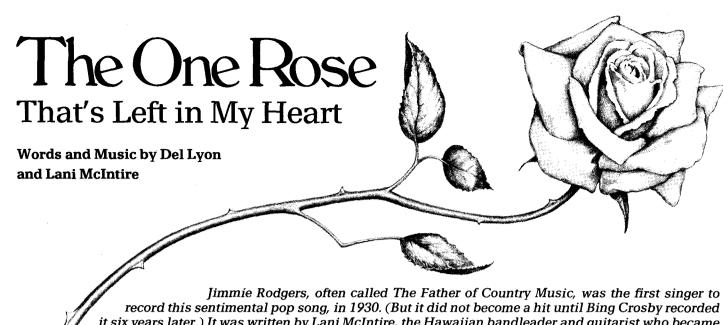
In 1913, a popular song called "All Aboard for Dixieland" introduced a successful new songwriting collaboration, Jack Yellen and George Cobb. During the early 1900s, Yellen, who wrote material for Sophie Tucker and teamed up on many songs for Broadway musicals and Hollywood films, joined Cobb in a number of other songs on the "Southern" theme, including "See Dixie First" and "Alabama Jubilee." One of their compositions, "Are You from Dixie?," became a country standard when The Blue Sky Boys, a North Carolina vocal and instrumental duo, adopted it as their theme song in 1935. Though they retired shortly after World War II in the face of growing commercialism in country music, The Blue Sky Boys have had great influence on certain segments of it — especially bluegrass. In 1969, Jerry Reed recorded "Are You from Dixie?," which barely missed becoming a Top Tenhit but received an award from ASCAP, the music-licensing organization.





公女公女公女公女公女





Jimmie Rodgers, often called The Father of Country Music, was the first singer to record this sentimental pop song, in 1930. (But it did not become a hit until Bing Crosby recorded it six years later.) It was written by Lani McIntire, the Hawaiian bandleader and guitarist who became a close friend of Rodgers and who, with his orchestra and Hawaiian guitar, accompanied him on several recordings. During his tragically short career (he died of TB at the age of 35), Rodgers recorded a wide range of material — serious, funny, rowdy and risqué, plus, of course, his famous "blue yodels." Most of his recordings are still available and still selling today — 50 years after his death.





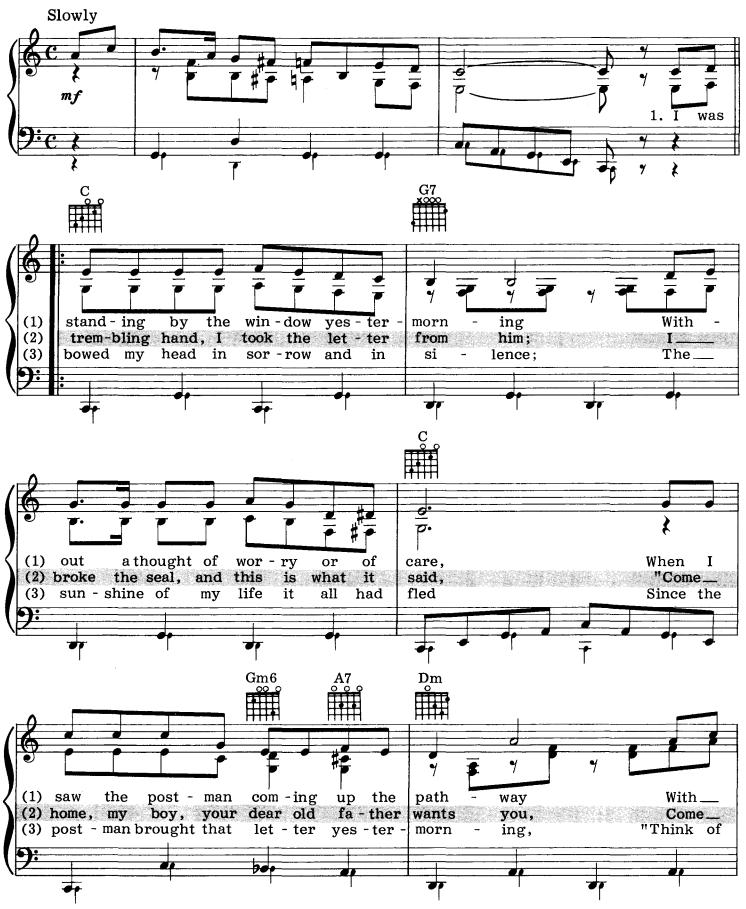


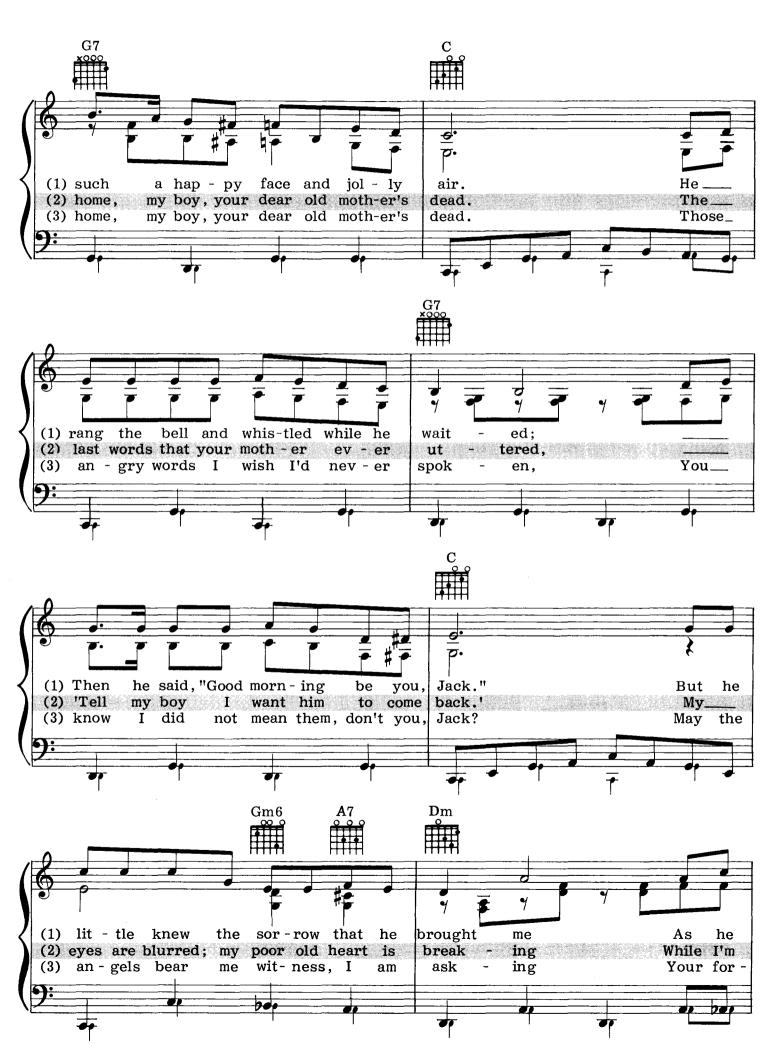


The Letter Edged in Black Traditional

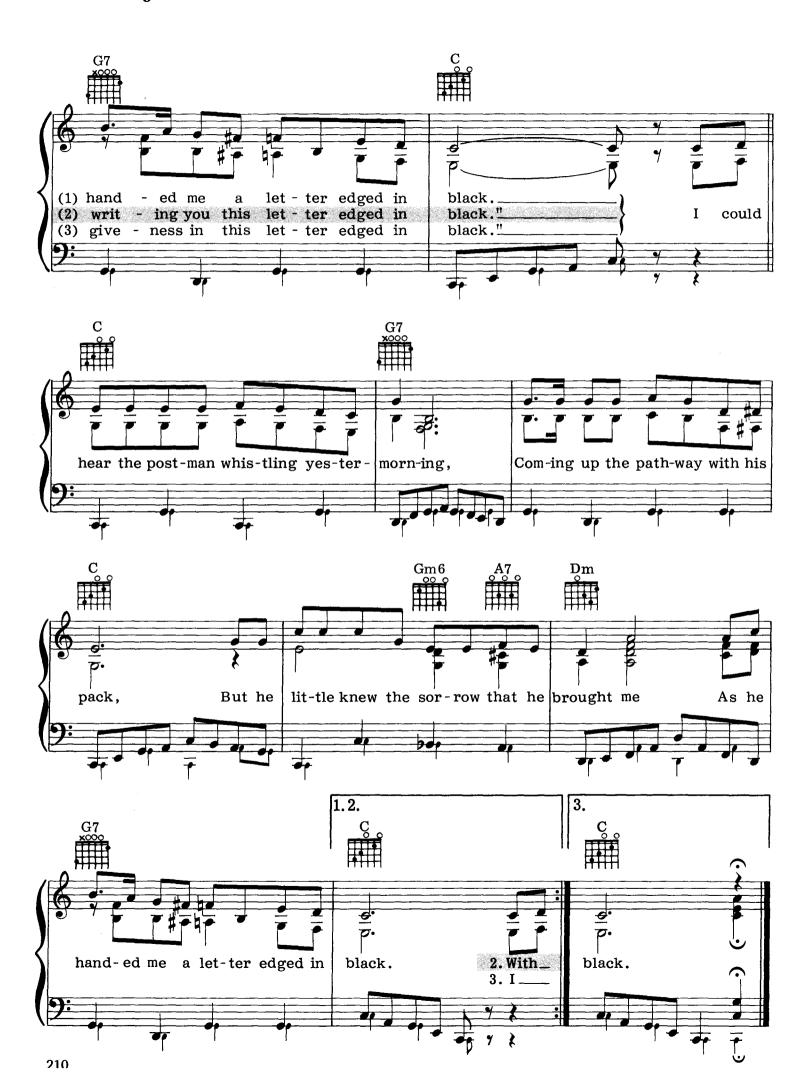
Long after it faded from the popular music scene, this song was kept alive in the repertory of country music. Presumably written in 1897 by Hattie Nevada, it reflects the typical Victorian preoccupation with sadness and death — particularly when they pointed a moral. It

remained a country favorite during the 1920s and '30s, and was revived successfully in the '40s by Roy Acuff. Acuff's version resulted in a number of other interpretations, including those by Mac Wiseman and Stonewall Jackson, who couldn't resist the chance to tell a good story.





The Letter Edged in Black

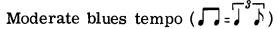




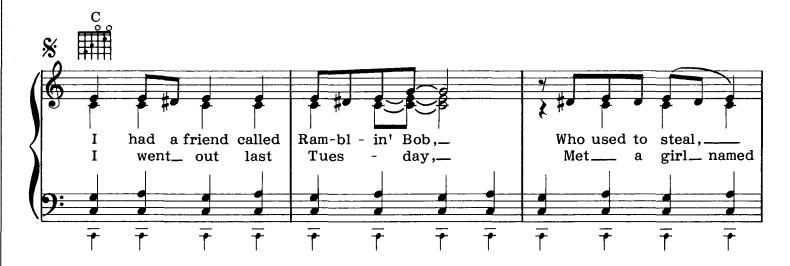
Words and Music by Jimmie Rodgers

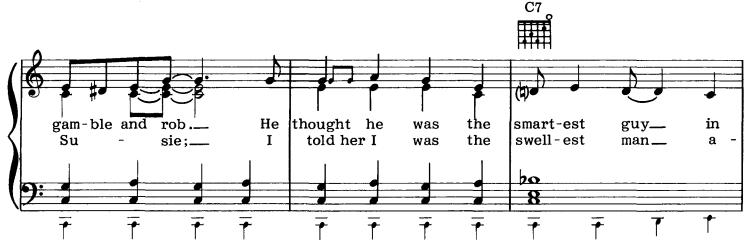
Soon after he started recording for RCA Victor in 1927, Jimmie Rodgers, "The Singing Brakeman," had become one of the company's most popular artists. Tuberculosis, which cut short his career in railroading, started him on an entirely new path as a singer and entertainer. At his third recording session, he recorded one of his most enduring favorites, "In the Jailhouse Now." It has since been sung and recorded by generations of country singers

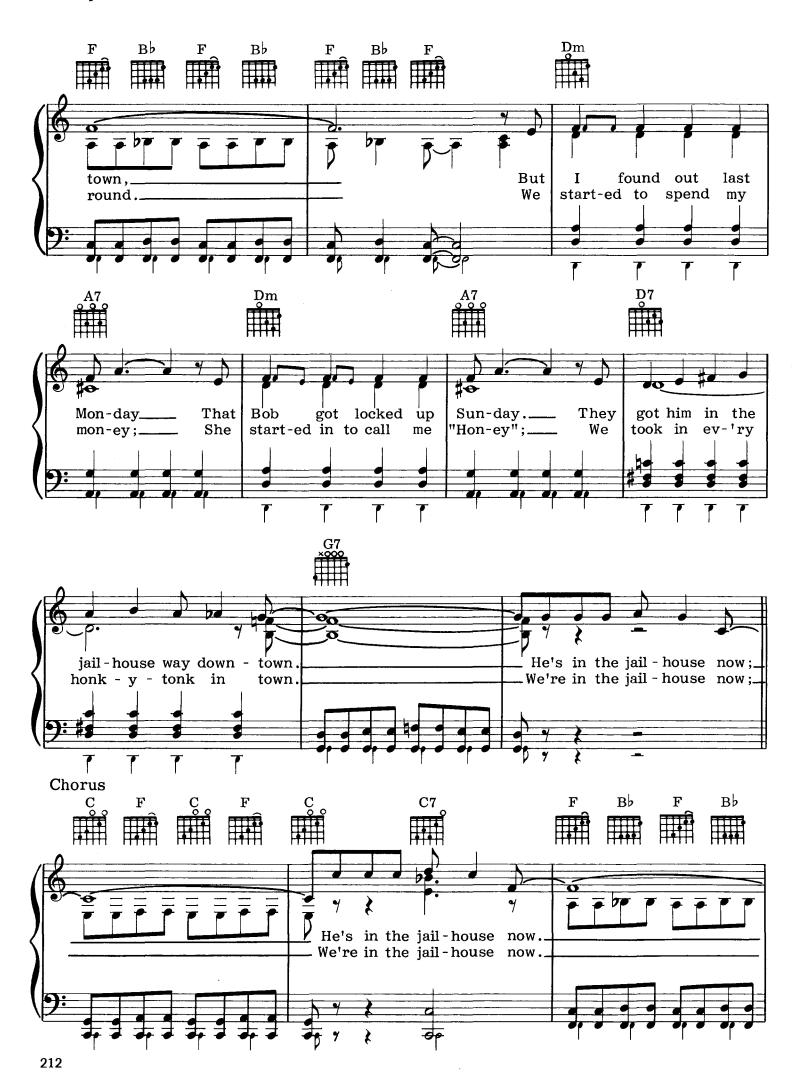
and folksingers, and over the years has provided hits for Webb Pierce, Johnny Cash and Sonny James. According to Carrie Rodgers, Jimmie's late wife, this was actually a recomposition of a much older song that he wrote in about 20 minutes in a Hollywood hotel room. In 1961, Jimmie, who had sung and swapped songs with railroad workers and hobos who rode the rails, posthumously became the first person elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame.









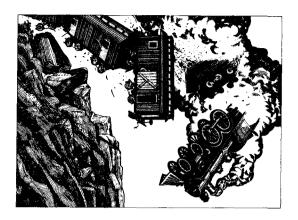




THE WRECK OF THE OLD 97

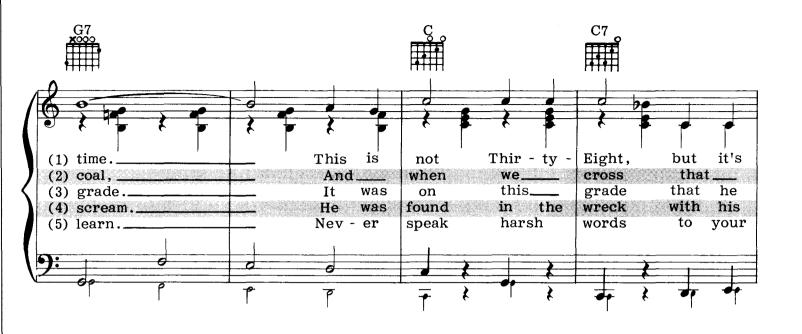
Words and Music by Henry Whitter, Charles W. Noell and Fred J. Lewey

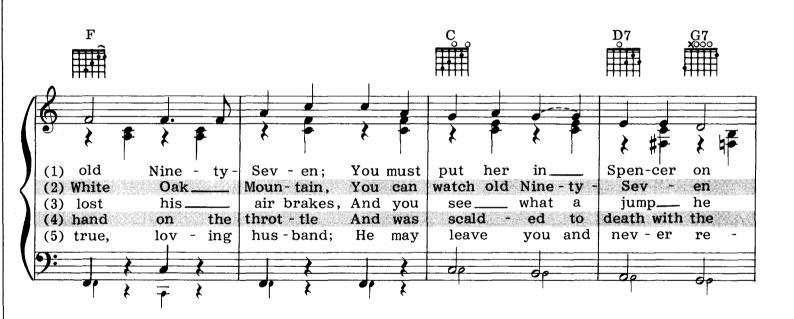
"Event" songs that chronicled actual happenings in ballad style were a staple in early country music. The wreck described here took place in 1903 on the Southern Railway's fast mail train between Washington and Atlanta. Several local writers created songs about the accident, using the tune from an 1865 song, "The Ship That Never Returned." In 1924, a version by a Virginia textile worker named Henry Whitter became one of the earliest

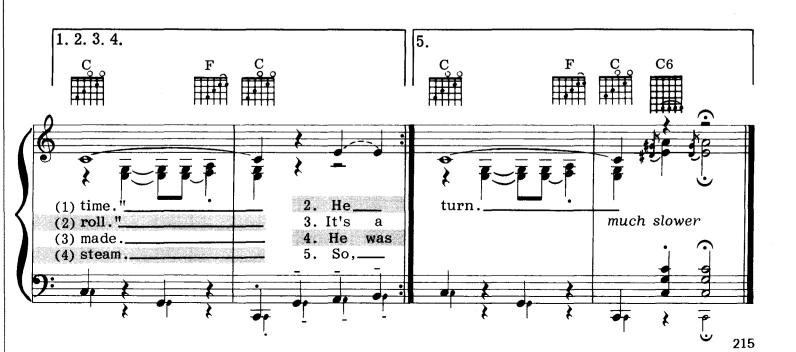


country recordings. While Whitter certainly contributed to the song's structure and popularity, litigation later established that Fred Lewey and Charles Noell of North Carolina had a legitimate claim to authorship. After Whitter's record proved the commercial success of "The Wreck of the Old 97," Vernon Dalhart recorded it, backed by "The Prisoner's Song," and the release became the first country hit of the pre-electric epoch.



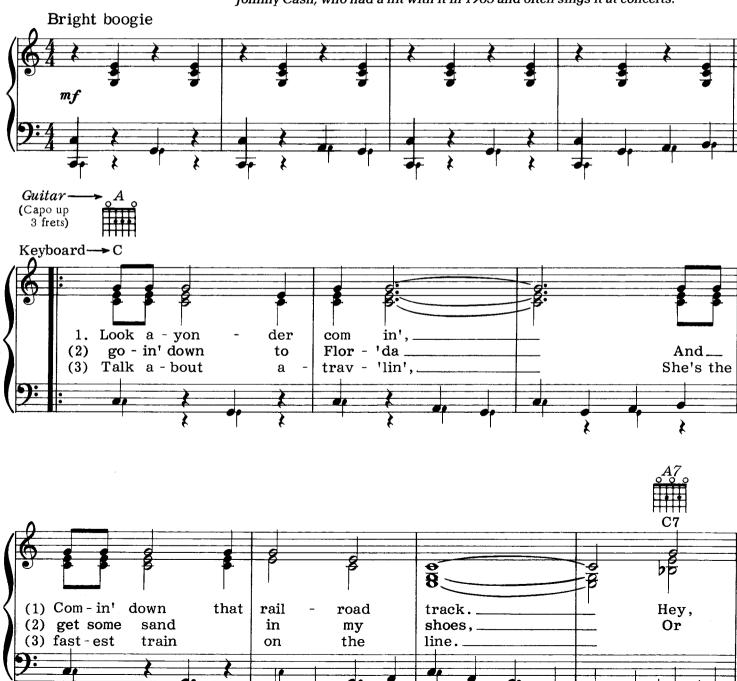








Fiddler Ervin T. Rouse of Florida regretted that he never got to ride the Orange Blossom Special, the Seaboard Line's crack train between Miami and New York. He did immortalize it, however, in this song that started life as a fiddle tune around 1936. The Rouse brothers — Ervin, Gordon and Earl — played the tune in Miami at the train's initial run, and their manager, Lloyd Smith, gave it its name. Later, Ervin added lyrics, and he and Gordon recorded it for RCA Victor in 1939. Since then, it has become a favorite of fiddlers and a wide range of country singers — especially Johnny Cash, who had a hit with it in 1965 and often sings it at concerts.





the Wabash Jannonball Traditional

In 1885, the old Wabash Railroad began calling its Chicago-to-Kansas City train the Cannon Ball. The first publication of a song about the famous train was in 1905, in a version by William Kindt. "The Wabash Cannonball" was recorded in 1929 by The Carter Family and is often attributed to A. P. Carter, but it really owes its popularity in country music to Roy Acuff's first recording session in 1936, when he put it and "The Great Speckled Bird" on wax. Acuff's 1942 million-selling recording of the song remained popular on jukeboxes throughout the war years. Since then, "The Wabash Cannonball," a favorite of hillbilly singers, has always been considered to be "his" song, and his version has "driven out" all earlier ones.





Can the Circle Be Unbroken

Traditional

Early country music developed in the 1920s, though it was part of a musical tradition that stretched back many years. One major influence was the gospel song, which had its beginnings in the 19th century. The chorus to "Can the Circle Be Unbroken" was derived from an early gospel song, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?," written in 1907 by

Ada Habershon and Charles Gabriel. The verses, with their sentimental account of the funeral of a beloved mother, are also Victorian in their simple expression of emotion. In a version attributed to A. P. Carter, the song was recorded in 1935 by The Carter Family, whose material reflected the conservatism of the rural South.





I'm Thinking Tonight of My Blue Eyes



Words and Music by A. P. Carter

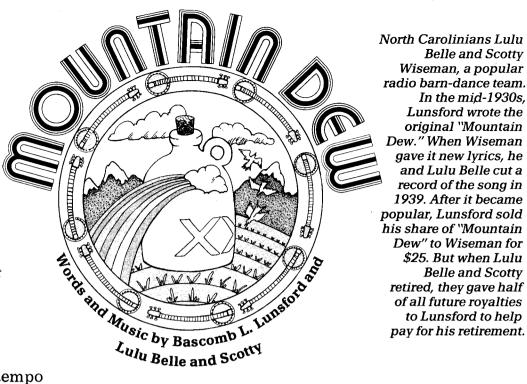
Though this song usually is attributed to A. P. Carter of The Original Carter Family, A. P.'s ex-wife, Sara, remembered hearing it as a little girl, and it may even be much older. It entered the country music tradition in 1929 when the Carters recorded it, and the melody has been used many times since for such songs as "The Great Speckled Bird," "The Wild Side of Life" and "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky Tonk Angels." Its theme of lost love provided the ideal sentimental one for Hollywood Westerns, and the song was sung by Roy Rogers in the 1943 film The Man from Music Mountain. The Carter Family, who recorded commercially from 1927 to 1941, perpetuated many early songs and influenced generations of country performers. Their reverence for the traditional and adherence to early musical styles also contributed to the popularity of folk music.



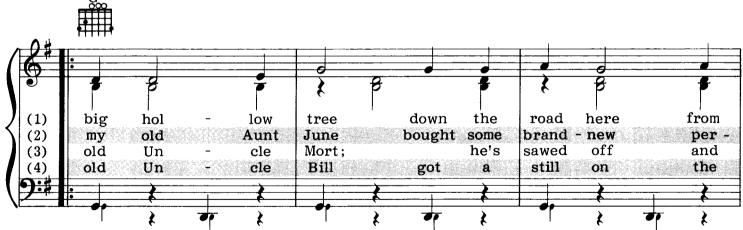


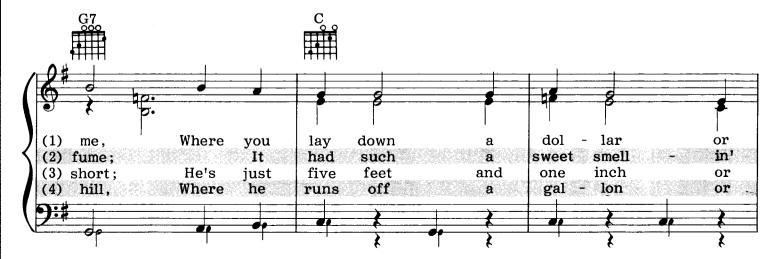


Bascomb Lamar Lunsford is best remembered as a folklorist rather than a country singer, although he was both. He was also a lawyer, editor, auctioneer and teacher, though his first love was always folk and country music. In 1928, Lunsford organized the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in his native North Carolina, which lasted for almost 30 years. Among the performers who frequented the folk festivals were fellow









Belle and Scotty

In the mid-1930s,

Lunsford wrote the

original 'Mountain

and Lulu Belle cut a

record of the song in

1939. After it became

Dew" to Wiseman for

retired, they gave half

of all future royalties

pay for his retirement.

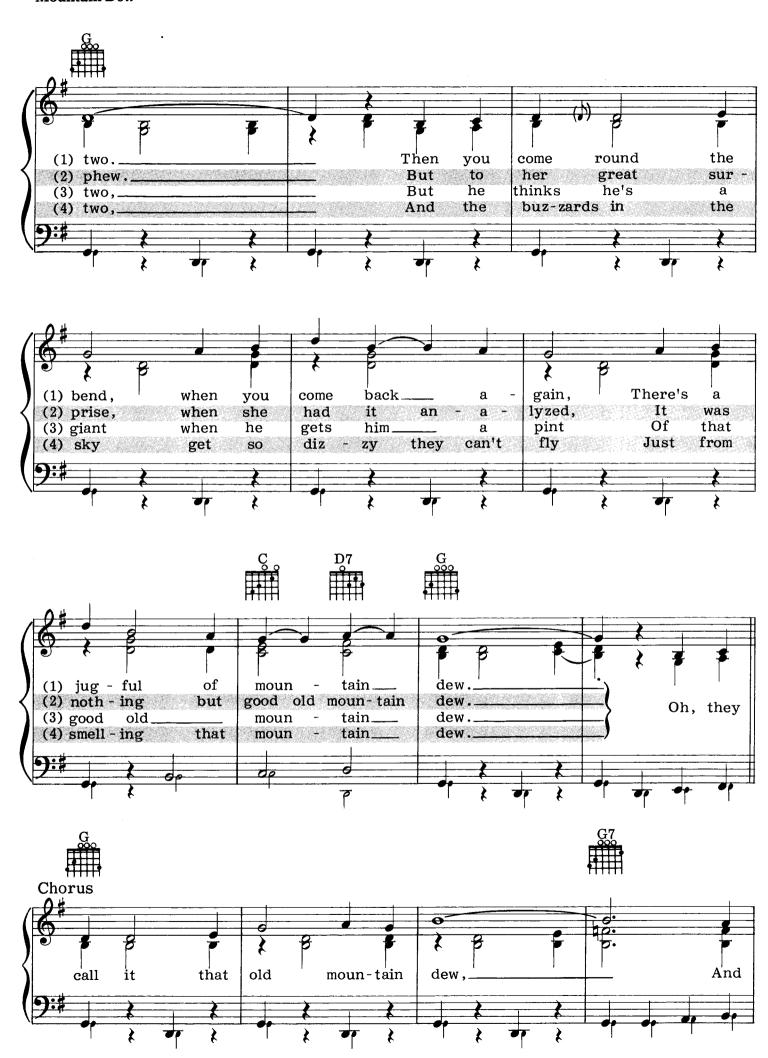
to Lunsford to help

\$25. But when Lulu

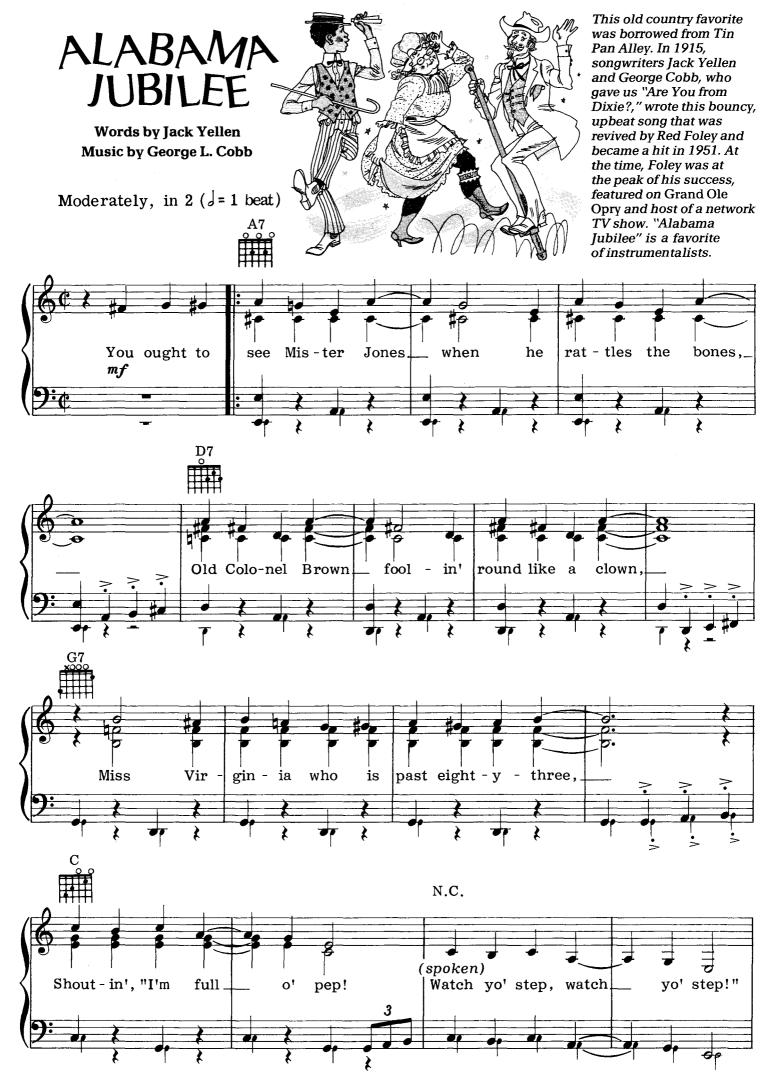
Belle and Scotty

Dew." When Wiseman gave it new lyrics, he

Wiseman, a popular







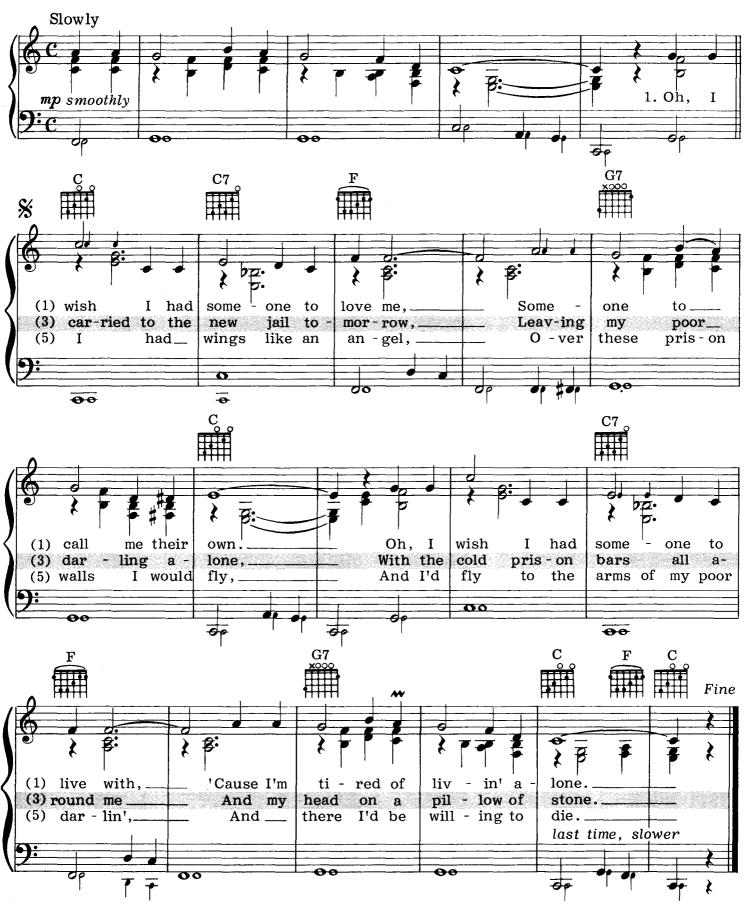


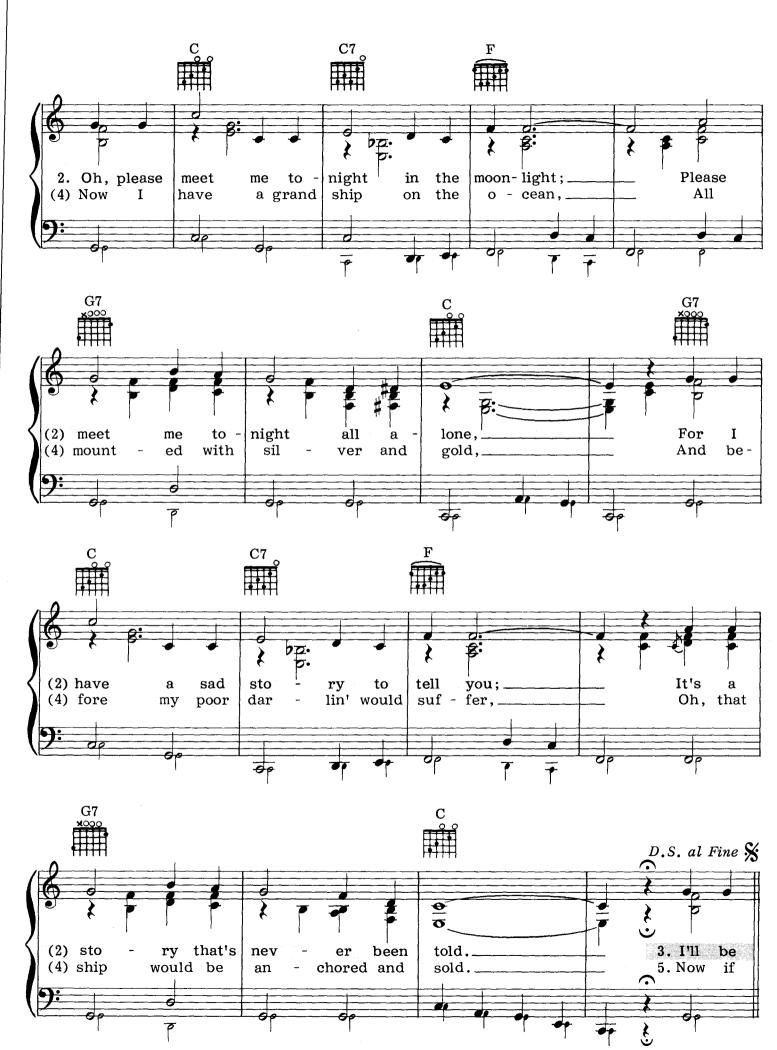
THE PRISONER'S SONG

Words and Music by Guy Massey

When Henry Whitter's 1923 recording of "The Wreck of the Old 97" became a commercial success, a light-opera singer named Vernon Dalhart persuaded the Victor company to let him record it. For the flip side of the record,

he proposed a number written by his cousin Guy Massey, "The Prisoner's Song." Sung by Dalhart in a nasal voice, the two songs became the biggest-selling recording — 6 million copies — in Victor's pre-electric history.



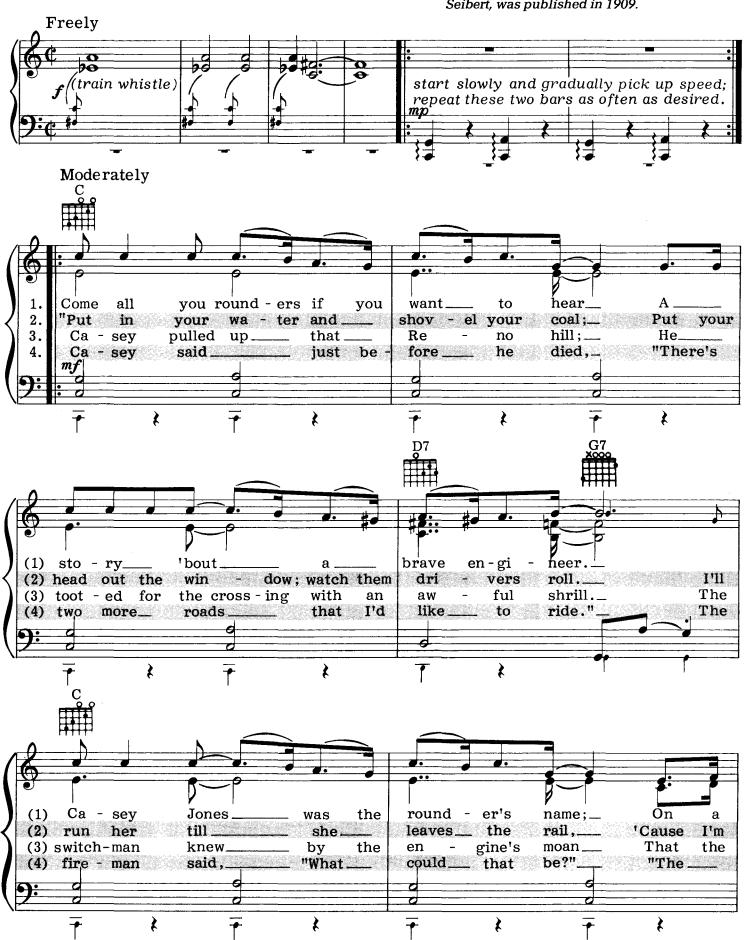


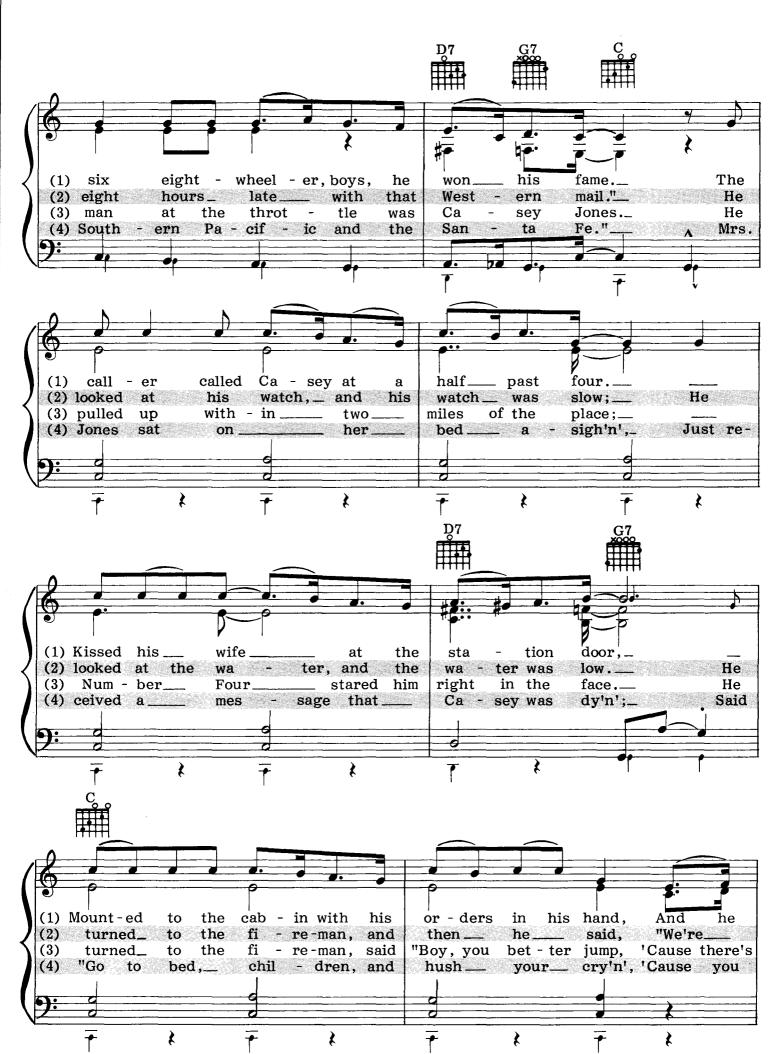
CASEY JONES

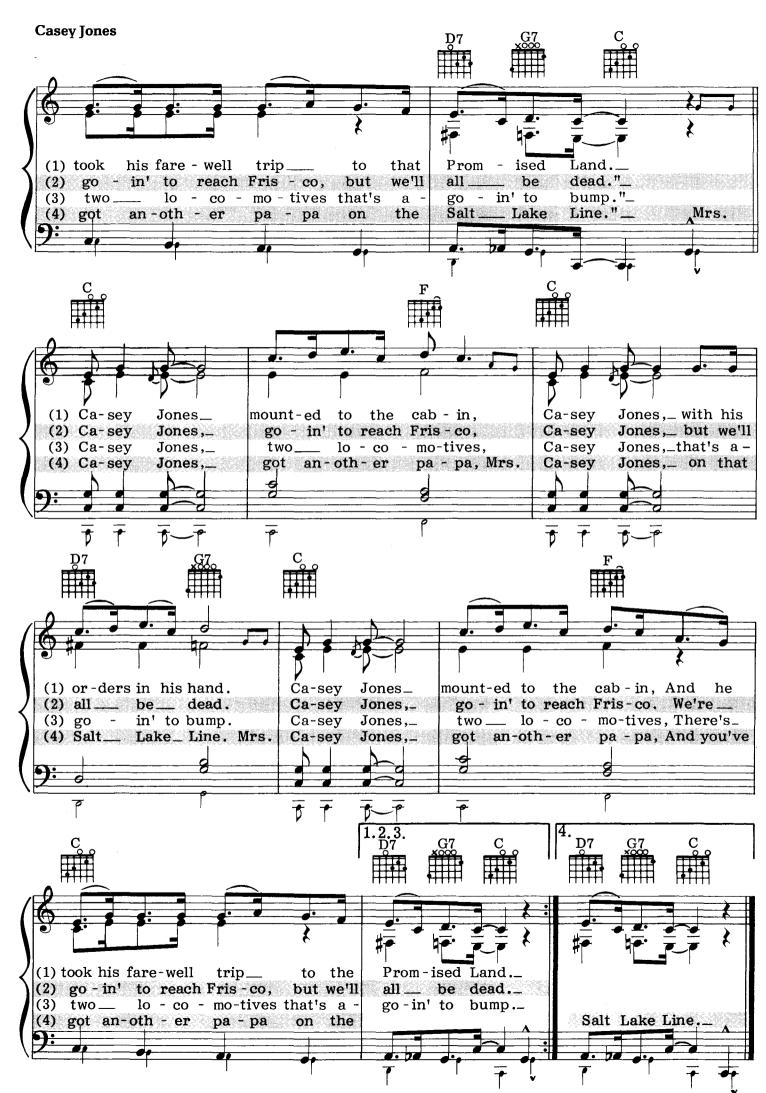
The Brave Engineer

Words by T. Lawrence Seibert; Music by Eddie Newton

On April 29, 1900, John Luther "Casey" Jones, an engineer on the Illinois Central Railroad, substituted for a sick friend and took the Cannon Ball Express out of Memphis. It collided with another train near Vaughn, Mississippi, and Casey became a legend. The classic song that commemorates these events, written by vaudevillians Eddie Newton and T. Lawrence Seibert, was published in 1909.







Section Eight

Pages 235-251

the touch of God's hand



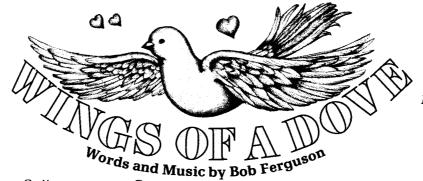
When he penned "Wings of a Dove" in 1959, songwriter, filmmaker and naturalist Bob Ferguson had just finished 13 wildlife films, and the song was his expression of faith

Moderately

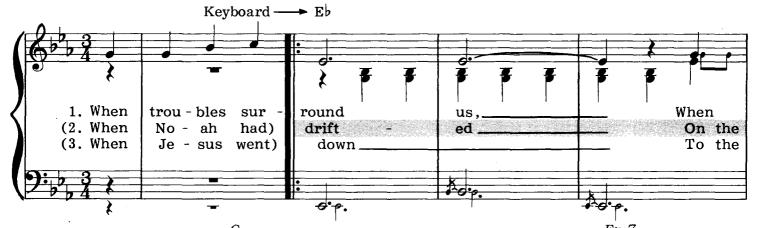
Guitar.

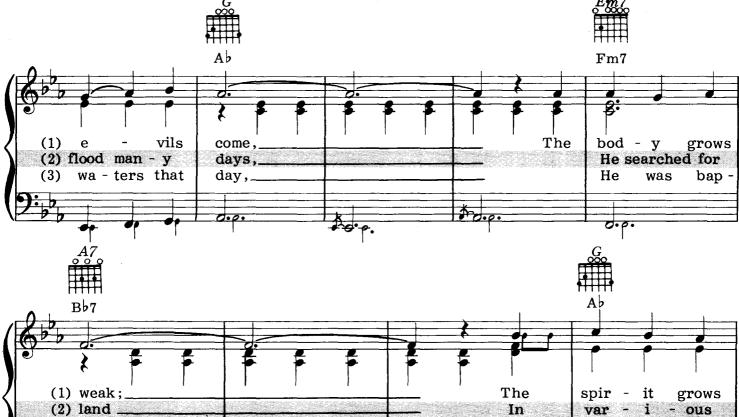
(Capo up

1 fret)



and joy in a job well done. It was recorded by country-pop singer Ferlin Husky on Capitol, and his 1960 release won both country and popular awards, reaching the top of the hit list in country and crossing over to the pop charts. It is still a favorite inspirational song of many country and gospel performers.





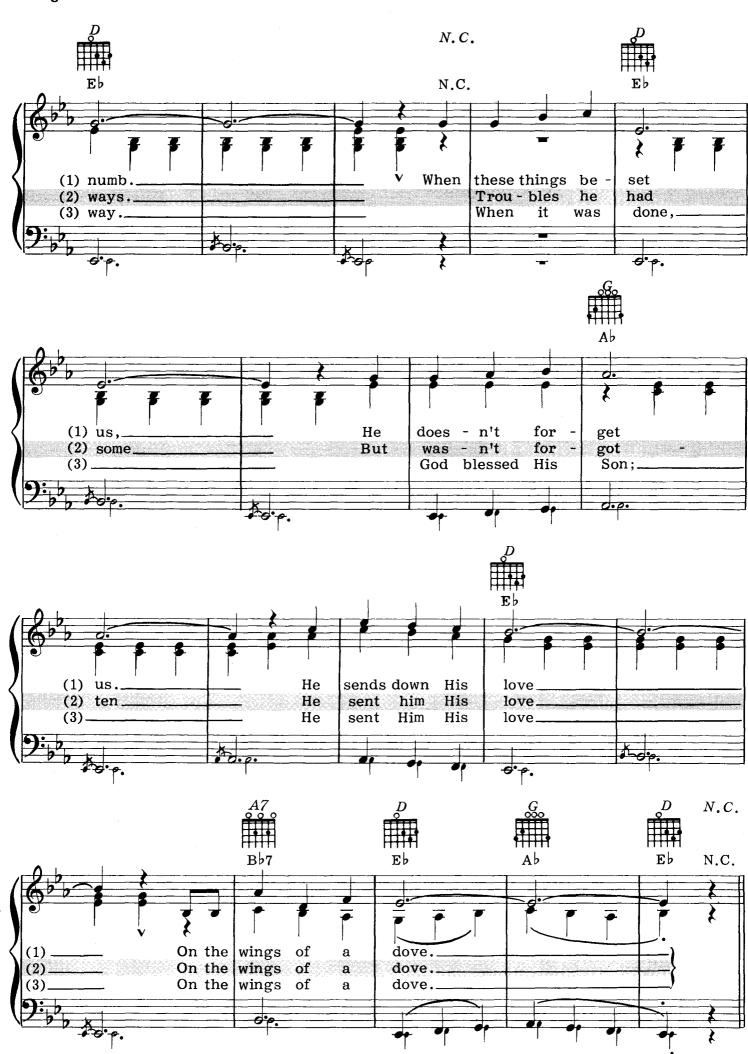
al

In the

us

13

(3) tized





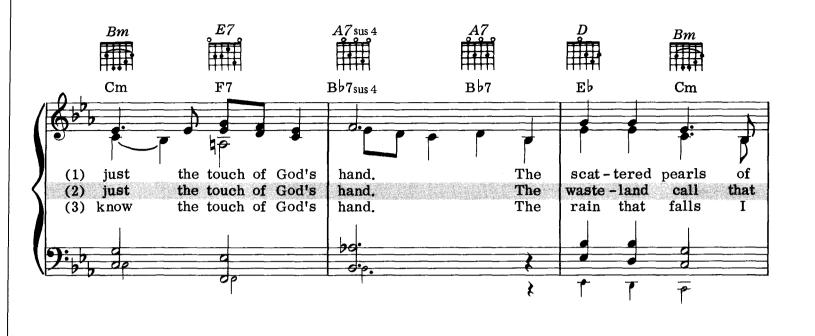
THE TOUCH OF GOD'S HAND

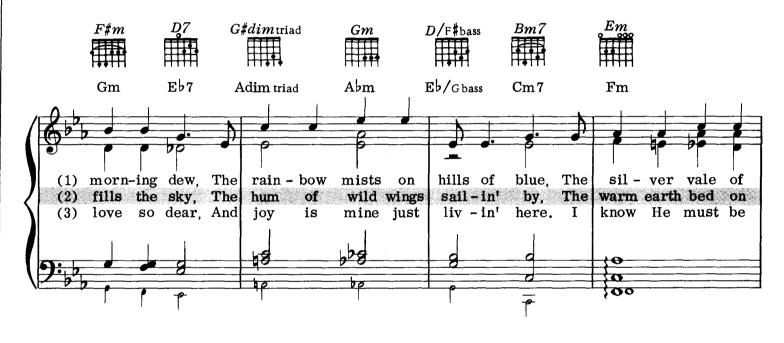
Words and Music by Bob Nolan

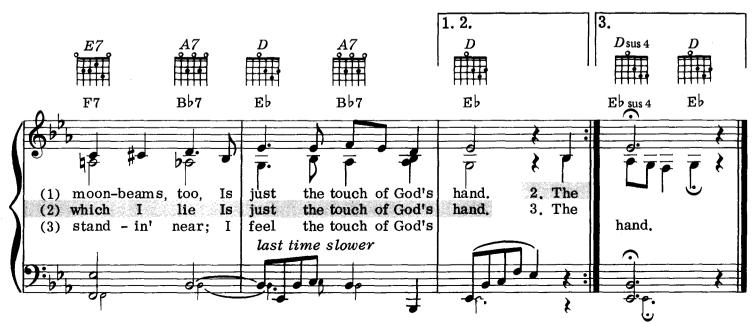
Bob Nolan, born in northern Canada to parents from the United States, was raised in New Mexico and Tucson, Arizona, where he settled following World War I. He never ceased to marvel at the beauty of the seemingly barren desert, which was his inspiration for writing "The Touch of God's Hand," a reverent description of its beauties. At the time, Nolan was a member of the original Sons of the Pioneers, which in 1936 was a trio with Nolan, Tim Spencer and Roy Rogers.









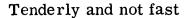


His Hands

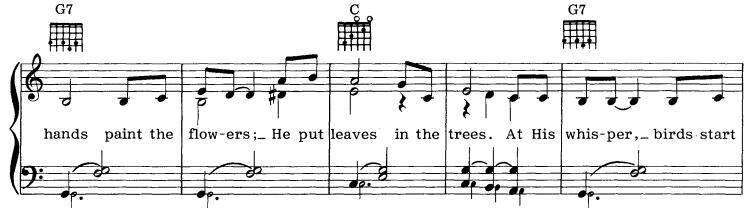
Words and Music by Stuart Hamblen

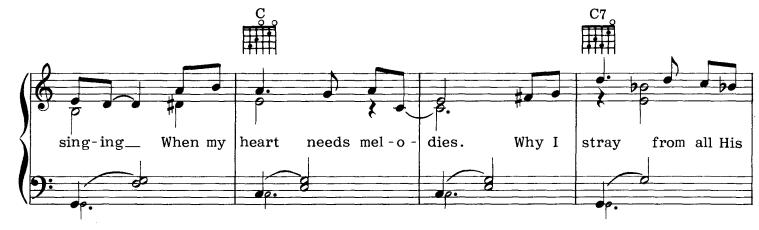
Stuart Hamblen grew up in Texas steeped in cowboy lore, and his 1934 recording of "Out on the Texas Plains" established him as a country artist. He was also something of a hell-raiser in those days, though he was the son of a minister. In the 1950s, Hamblen was converted during a Billy Graham Crusade and began writing and singing gospel music. As a result, his career reached a new high with his composition of such songs as "It Is No Secret," "This Ole House" and "His Hands," a top-seller in 1955 in a recording by Tennessee Ernie Ford.















Shall We Gather at the River?

Words and Music by Robert Lowry Adapted and arranged by Dan Fox In the middle of the 19th century, a group of writers gave voice to a new kind of church music — the gospel song. A more personal and lively expression of faith than the usual hymn, it was often based on narratives found in the Gospels. One of those writers was Dr. Robert Lowry, a Baptist minister in Brooklyn, whose most famous work is "Shall We Gather at the River?" He said the song was inspired by his thought that although many hymnists had written about the "river of death," few had thought about the "waters of life." Today, this 1864 gospel song is a country favorite.





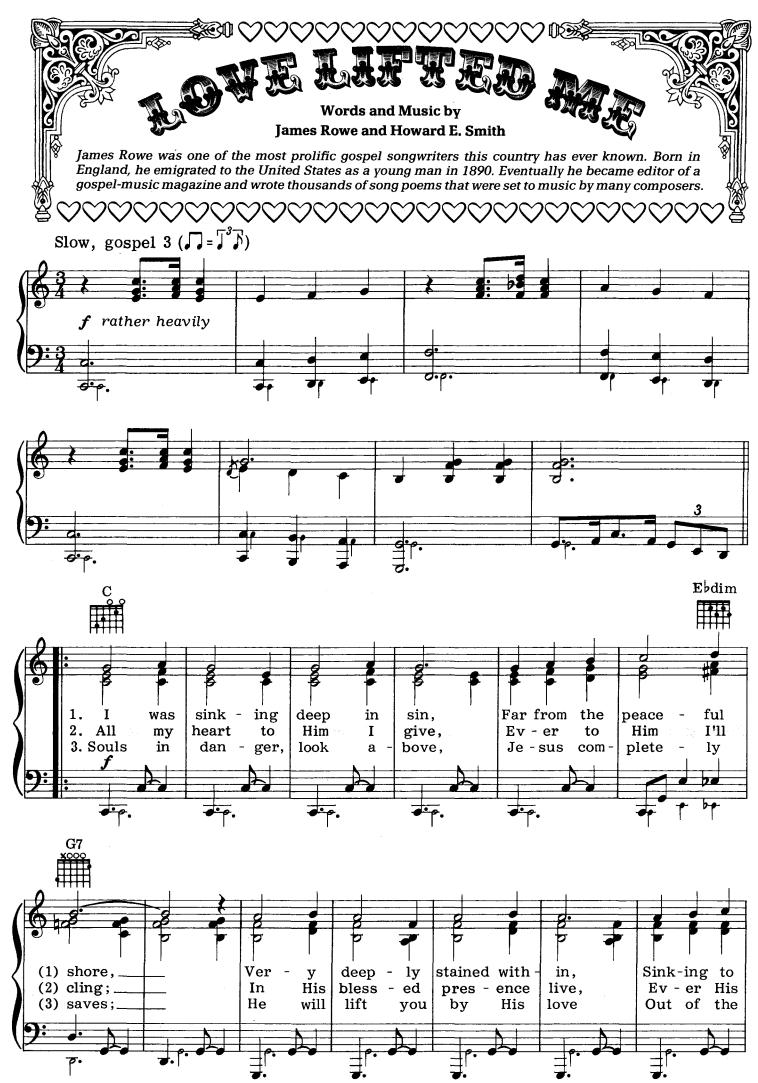


Words and Music by William J. Gaither

As an expression of personal hope and sentiment, gospel music had its beginnings in the middle of the 19th century. With the great religious revivals of American evangelists Dwight Moody and Billy Sunday, an even more popular form of gospel "song" took shape, using language and images familiar to the common man. Modern gospel has added arrangements, instrumentation and rhythms borrowed from popular and country music to make gospel even more general in its appeal. And, at the same time, the idea of an intimate, personal relationship with Jesus has become a common theme, expressed in songs like this one. "He Touched Me" provides a personal testimonial and revelation, written and sung to win souls to Christ — as much sermon as song. Most popular with gospel groups, it is sometimes sung by country artists in the "inspirational" portion of their programs. It was written in 1963 by William Gaither, a former high-school teacher and leader of one of the most popular contemporary gospel groups, The Bill Gaither Trio, in which his wife also sings. Though "He Touched Me," Gaither's first huge success, is a modern song, its message of a close relationship with a personal Savior is timeless.







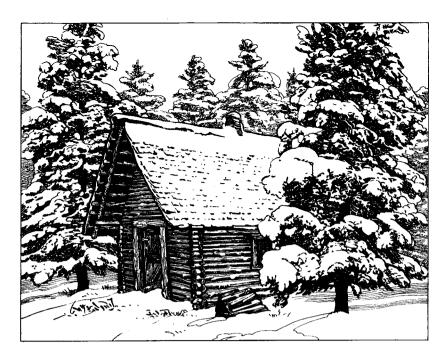




THIS OLE HOUSE

Words and Music by Stuart Hamblen

Stuart Hamblen's 1954 recording of "This Ole House" was a Top Ten country hit, but it was Rosemary Clooney's pop version that became a smash and brought Hamblen international fame as a songwriter. He wrote the song while on a hunting trip in the Sierra Nevada in California, where he stumbled on a remote prospector's shack. The old miner lay dead inside, but his loyal dog, despite the severe weather and near starvation, was still guarding the premises. Hamblen said that he wrote "This Ole House" as the old prospector's epitaph.



Moderately, in 2 (J=1 beat)

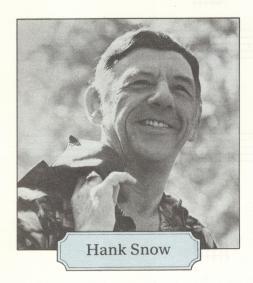


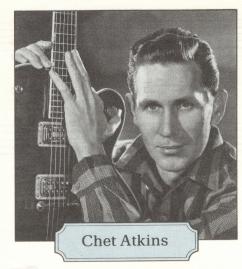


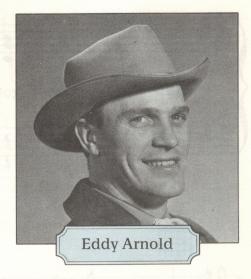


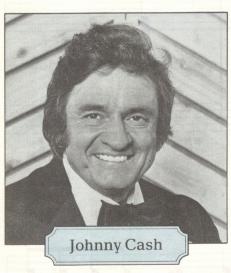
COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FA

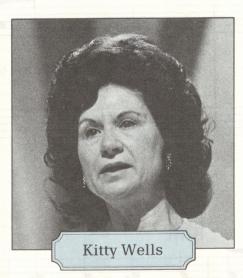
Nine of the immortal stars whose hits grace the pages of this songbook

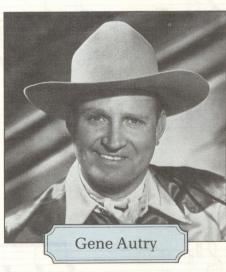


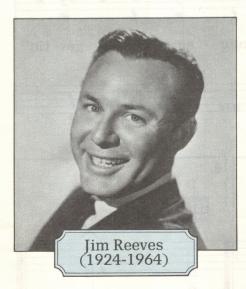


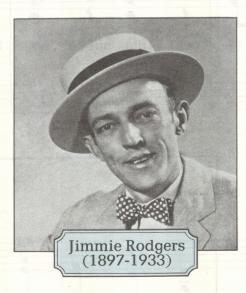


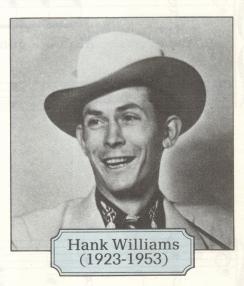












ART CREDITS

Frances Attaway: 218 Frances Attaway: 218 Linda Berry: 92 Nick Calabrese: 8, 47, 68, 121 Kye Carbone: 199, 216 Pamela Ford Johnson: 58 Joe Krush: 44, 158, 166, 228

Bob McMahon: Title page art, 19, 24, 38, 62, 64, 75, 80, 133, 136, 156, 180, 196, 204, 206, 211, 214, 249
Frederick Porter: 16, 55, 126, 238
Albert Pucci: Cover design, 28, 102, 112, 143, 161, 184
Suzanne Richardson: 10, 32, 82, 106, 109, 140, 172, 225, 235
S. D. Shindler: 90
Diana Heblinger: 5

Diana Uehlinger: 5 Ed Vebell: 115, 118, 148, 169, 186, 190, 222, 240

PHOTO CREDITS

Top row, left to right: Frank Driggs Collection; Frank Driggs Collection; Culver Pictures Inc

Culver Pictures Inc.
Middle row, left to right: Frank Driggs Collection; Frank Driggs Collection;
Photo Trends
Bottom row, left to right: Frank Driggs Collection; Frank Driggs Collection;

Photo Trends