



Alda Smith

**1. "Hard Luck Blues" (02:16)**

*Ralph Smith narrates as a guitar plays chords in the background*

**R. Smith:** Now'n I'll tell you how hard luck I is. I was born in to hard luck. I was born in the last month in the year, the last week in the month, the last day in the week, the last hour in the day, the last minute in the hour, and the last second in the minute. Now to tell you the truth about it, I like to not got here at all. I went and got me a job in a grocery store. A lady come in, said, 'Young man what is your butter today?' I said, 'Lady my butter today is butter.' She said, 'Well I'm glad to hear this, 'cause that I got here yesterday was axle grease.' So the boss fired me. I went on down the street and I got me another job in a ladies shoe store. Man that was a good job too. All I had to do was when a lady wanted to buy her pair of shoes I was to lace up her laces. The boss fired me there though, he said I got above my job. So I went down the street and got me another job in a dry goods store. A lady come in, said, 'Young man, I'd like to see your underwear.' So I told her, 'I'm sorry lady, but you'll have to excuse me. Today I don't have on any, it's too hot.' My boss fired me there too. So I'm really hard luck. So I went on down the street and I got me another job, in a department store. A lady come in and she wanted to buy her a pair of hose. She didn't know the size of her hose and I said, 'I'm sorry lady, but we haven't got a dressing room.' So the boss come up to find out what the trouble was and I told him about it. He said, 'Well all you young men and clerks go back to the back end of the store and let the lady go behind the counter and try her on a pair of hose. And the first one of you I catch peepin', I'm gonna fire him.' Well after I lost that job, I went to singin' for a livin'. Now I'm gonna sing you a little tune entitled, 'Don't make love in a 'tater patch. 'Cause 'taters have eyes'.

**2. "Heaven" (01:06)**

*Ralph and Faye Smith sing with a guitar accompaniment.*

**Both:** In childhood, I heard of a Heaven.

I wondered if it could be true.

That there are sweet mantles eternal,

Up there, somewhere beyond the blue.

I wondered if people knew the [old day]

Til one day sweet Jesus came in

And I got a vision of Heaven

My soul through all Heaven will sing

Heaven-

**R. Smith:** -[????]

**Both:** Heaven-

**R. Smith:** -That peace and love.

**Both:** Oh, it makes me feel like travelin' on.

Heaven-

**R. Smith:** -[Eternal].

**Both:** Heaven-

**R. Smith:** -Eternal.

**Both:** I'm so glad it's real.

### **3. "May I Sleep in Your Barn Tonight" (03:08)**

**R. Smith:** Now here's yours Mr. Law.

*<Begins to sing>*

May I sleep in your barn tonight, mister,

For it's cold lying out on the ground.

And the cold hard wind is whistling,

I have no place to lie down.

I have no [device or imaginins'],

And I'm sure that I'll do you no harm.

I will you tell you a story [kind missy],

Though it runs my heart like a sword.

It was three years ago last summer,

I will never forget that sad day.  
When a stranger came out from the city,  
He was looking for some place to stay.  
Now the stranger was tall dark and handsome,  
He looked like a man who had will.  
Said he wanted to stay in the country,  
He wanted to stay for his health.  
Now my wife she seemed to be honest,  
Something to add to her home.  
I think she got me decided,  
To let him come in and [????].  
I was coming from my workshop in the evening,  
Whistling and singing with joy.  
I expected a kind hearted welcome,  
From my wife and my baby boy.  
What did I find but a letter,  
Placed in the room on the stand.  
The moment I fell upon it,  
I picked it right up in my hand.  
Now the words that were written in this letter,  
Was enough to drive any man wild.  
Said the stranger and Nelly,  
Had gone and taken my child.

#### **4. “Isn’t He Wonderful” (01:03)**

*Warren Smith sings while Ralph Smith plays the guitar*

**W. Smith:** Isn’t he wonderful?

Isn’t he wonderful?

Isn’t Jesus my lord wonderful?

As I sing, yes I’ve heard,

It’s recorded in God’s word.

Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?

Wonderful, wonderful,

Isn't he wonderful?

Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?

As I sing, yes I've heard,

It's recorded in God's word.

Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?

Isn't he wonderful?

Isn't he wonderful?

Isn't Jesus my Lord wonderful?

##### **5. "The Song That I Am Writing" (02:42)**

*This song is performed by Orris Smith*

*Song opens with a long guitar solo*

**O. Smith:** The song that I'm singing,

Is a song you can not hear.

Its words are culled in diamonds,

That can not [be too near].

I sing it loud in silence,

Only minds can hear the words.

Tomorrow's sun is rising,

These words draw him near.

The letter I've been writing,

Well it can't be sent to you.

Its words tell of my love,

The only thing [I knew].

I'll send it to another,

Whose heart is filled with love.

I will [along] you to await the dreams,

That I was dreaming of.

I'll live my life without you,

If my life must be this way.  
But you'll have my heart beside you,  
[Torn to piece and stained].

#### **6. "Steel Guitar Chimes" (01:37)**

*This track is solely instrumental. Performed by Alda Smith*

#### **7. "Gee Waw Song" (01:44)**

*This track is performed by Shelah Lafayette Laws a capella*

**S. Laws:** Look away over yonder and I see my fathers coming

They're wringing of their hands and they're crying

They're talking about their heavenly home,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Gee up, a hoe up, a go up, I hope to meet you there,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Look away over yonder and I see my mothers coming,

They're wringing of their hands and they're crying.

They're talking about their heavenly home,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Gee up, a hoe up, a go up, I hope to meet you there,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Look away over yonder and I see my brothers coming,

They're wringing of their hands and they're crying.

They're talking about their heavenly home,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Gee up, a hoe up, a go up, I hope to meet you there,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Look away over yonder and I see my sisters coming,

They're wringing of their hands and they're crying.

They're talking about their heavenly home,

And I want to go to my Gee Waw.

Gee up, a hoe up, a go up, I hope to meet you there,  
And I want to go to my Gee Waw. <*Stops singing*>

**Unknown:** What's the-what's the name of that song?

**S. Laws:** Uh, an old [op-get]-can't tell you [????]

**Unknown:** What-what kind of song is it?

**S. Laws:** Indian song.

**Unknown:** Indian song.

**S. Laws:** It's an Indian song, I suppose. Always know'd it for that.