Want To Be Like Jesus In My Heart
Chicago c. December 1925-January 1926, Pm 12386
C position pitched at B

Lord, I don't want to be like Judas in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I don't want to be like Judas in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I don't want to be like Judas in my heart.

I want to cross the river of Jordan in my heart, in my heart.
Want to cross the river of Jordan in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart.
I want to cross the river of Jordan in my heart.

Lord, I don't want to be no liar in my heart.
Lord, I don't want to be no liar in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I don't want to be no liar in my heart.

Yes, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
Yes, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Yes I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Lord, I want to love my neighbor in my heart.
Lord, I want to love my neighbor in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to love my neighbor in my heart.

All I Want Is That Pure Religion
Chicago c. December 1925-January 1926, Pm 12386
E position pitched at Eb

All I want is the pure religion, hallelu.
All I want is the pure religion, hallelu.
All I want is the pure religion, pure religion take you home to heaven.
Then you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

Well, the place in Jordan, you can't go 'round, hallelu, hallelu.
Place in Jordan, you can't go 'round, hallelu.
Place in Jordan, you can't go round, you ain't got religion, you gon' drown.
Then you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

When you're crossin' over Jordan, don't have no fear, hallelu.
When you're crossin' over Jordan, don't have no fear, hallelu.
Crossin' over Jordan, don't have no fear, Jesus gonna be my engineer.
Then you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

Well, Death is ridin' all through the land, hallelu.
Death is ridin' all through the land, hallelu.
Death is ridin' all through the land, ain't gonna spare no gamblin' man.
Then you're gonna need this pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

Well, the doctor's standin', lookin' sad, hallelu.
Doctor's standin', lookin' sad, hallelu.
Doctor's standin', lookin' sad, hardest case I ever had.
Then you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

Well, my mother and father 'round my bed a-cryin', hallelu.
Mother and father 'round my bed a-crying, hallelu.
Mother and father 'round my bed a-crying, lord have mercy my child is dyin'.
Then you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

Well, the train is comin', done turned the curve, hallelu.
Train is comin', done turned the curve, hallelu, hallelu.
Train is comin', done turned the curve, fixin' to leave this sinful world.
Then you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, hallelu.

Ride on Death, don't ride so slow, hallelu, hallelu.
Ride on Death, don't ride so slow, hallelu.
Ride on Death, don't ride so slow, my heart's willing, ready to go.
Sayin', you're gonna need that pure religion, hallelu, oh hallelu.

Got the Blues (2471-2)
Chicago c. March 1926, Pm 12354
G position

Well the blues come to Texas lopin' like a mule.
Well the blues come to Texas lopin' like a mule.
You take a high brown woman, man she's hard to fool.

You can't ever tell what a woman's got on her mind.
Man, you can't tell what a woman's got on her mind.
You might think she's crazy about you, she's leavin' you all the time.

She ain't so good lookin' and her teeth don't shine like pearls.
She ain't so good lookin' and her teeth don't shine like pearls.
But that nice disposition carries a woman all through the world.

I'm goin' to the river, gonna carry my rocker chair.
Well I'm goin' to the river, carry my rocker chair.
Gonna ask that gal from Crowell, how's the worried blues rest here.

I think I heard my good gal
callin' my name.
Hey hey, good gal call my name.
She doesn't call so loud but she calls so nice and plain.

I was raised in Texas, was schooled in Tennessee.
I was raised in Texas, schooled in Tennessee.
And sugar you can't make no fatmouth outa me.

Sayin', woman acts funny, quits you for another man.
Sayin', a woman acts funny, quitin' you for another man.
She ain't gonna look at you straight but she's always raisin' sand.

I say, I know my baby, she gonna jump and shout.
When she gets a letter Lemon have rolled them few days out.

Woman, if you don't love me, just be frank and tell me so.
I say, if you don't love me, be frank and tell me so.
So I can leave your town and hang crepe on your door.

Said, baby, what's the matter,
Papa Lemon can't get no mail.
Said, baby, what's the matter,
Papa Lemon can't get no mail.
Mama, dreamt last night,
pulled a black cat across your trail.

I said, fair brown, tell me where'd you stay last night.
Said, fair brown, "Where'd you stay last night?"
Your hair's all down, you know you ain't talkin' right.

Some women see you comin',
man, they go get the rocker chair.
Women see you comin', go get the rocker chair.
"I wanna fool this man and make out he's welcome here."

So cold in China, the birds can hardly sing.
So cold in China, birds can hardly sing.
You didn't make me mad till you soak my diamond ring.

Hey, mama and papa, and papa's papa 'deed double do love you, doggone it.
Somebody's talking to you, mama and papa 'deed double do love you.
What you cryin' 'bout, baby, papa don't care what you do.

Well, I know my baby, she gonna jump and shout.

I said, "Ticket Agent, how long is your train been gone?"
Oh, I said, "Ticket Agent, how long's your train been gone?"
Say, "Yonder go the train that your fair brown left here on."

I couldn't buy no ticket but I walked on through the door.
I couldn't buy me no ticket but I walked on through the door.
Well my baby's left town, she ain't comin' here no more.

I got up this mornin', my sho' enough on my mind.
I say, I got up this mornin' with my sho' enough on my mind.
Had to raise a conversation with the landlady to keep from cryin'.

Excuse me, woman, I won't say this no more.
I say excuse me, woman, I won't say this no more.
I'm fixin to leave town and hang crepe on your door.

My mind leads me to take a trip down south.
Well, my mind leads me to take a trip down south.
Take a trip down south and stop at the fatmouth's house.

One train left the depot with the red and blue light behind.
Train left the depot with the red and blue light behind.
Well, the blue light's the blues, the red light's a worried mind.

I hate to tell you, sugar, it 'tain't nobody there.
Well, I hate to tell you, it 'tain't nobody there.
If a man stay here, he'll stay most anywhere.

I got up this mornin', ramblin' for my shoes.
I got up this mornin', ramblin' for my shoes. The little woman served me a saucer full of worried blues.

Uncle Sam was no woman, but didn't he draft your man. Uncle Sam was no woman, but didn't he draft your man. Tell me them good lookin' womens on the border raisin' sand.

Well, women on the border's drinkin' over the water trough. I say, women on the border's drinkin' over the water trough. I wished Uncle Sam would hurry up and pay these soldiers off.

I can't drink coffee and the woman won't make no tea. Man, I can't drink coffee and the woman won't make no tea I believe to my soul sweet mama gonna hoodoo me

Asked the girl did she love me, said, "Lemon, I don't nohow". Asked that girl did she love me, said, "Lemon, I don't nohow". Cause of me commentatin', "Yes, I love you sky high".

She had feet like a monkey, head like a teddy bear, Feet like a monkey, head like a teddy bear, And a mouth full of Levi Garrett, skeetin' it everywhere.

I got a girl in Cuba, I've got a girl in Spain. I've got a brown yonder in Dallas, I'm afraid to call her name.

Black Horse Blues
Chicago c. April 1926, Pm 12367
C position and pitch

Tell me what time do the trains come through your town. I wanna know what time do the trains come through your town.

I wanna laugh and talk with a long-haired teasin' brown. One goes south at eight and it's one goes north at nine. One goes south at eight and one goes north at nine. I got a hour to talk with that long-haired brown of mine.

Go and get my black horse and saddle up my grey mare. Go get my black horse and saddle up my grey mare. I'm goin' off to my good gal, she's in the world somewhere.

I can't count the times that I stole aside and cried. I can't count the times that I stole aside and cried. Sugar, the blues ain't on me, but things ain't goin' on right.

Corinna Blues
Chicago c. April 1926, Pm 12367
C position and pitch

See see rider, see what you done done. Made me love you, now your friend is come. You made me love you, now your friend is come. Well you made me love you, now your friend is come.

The great tall engine, a little small engineer, Carried the woman 'way, Lord, and left me standin' here. Carried the woman 'way, Lord, and left me standin' here. Carried the woman 'way, Lord, left me standin' here.

Well if I hadda listened unto my second mind, I don't believe I'd have been here wringin' my hand and cryin'. I don't believe I'd have been here wringin' my hands and cryin'. I don't believe I'd have been here wringin' my hands and cryin'.

Ain't no more potatoes, the frost have killed the vine. The blues ain't nothin' but a good woman on your mind. The blues ain't nothin' but a good woman on your mind. Well, the blues ain't nothin' but a good woman on your mind.

I done told you woman, I been tellin' your partner too, You're three times seven, you know what you wanna do. You're three times seven, you know what you wanna do. Well, you're three times seven, you know what you wanna do.

If you see Corinna, tell her to hurry home. I ain't had no true love since Corinne been gone. I ain't had no true love since Corinne been gone. I ain't had no true love since Corinne's been gone.

Got the Blues
Chicago c. May 1926, Pm 12354
G position pitched at F#

Well, the blues come to Texas lopin' like a mule. Well, the blues come to Texas lopin' like a mule. You take a high brown woman, man, she's hard to fool.

You can't ever tell what a woman's got on her mind. Man, you can't tell what a woman's got on her mind. You might think she's crazy about you, she's leavin' you all the time.

I got up this mornin' with the blues all around my bed. Hey, hey, blues all around my bed. I was fixin' to eat my breakfast and the blues all in my bread.

You can always tell when a woman's gonna put you down. You can always tell when a woman's gonna put you down. Somehow her sweet-talk man is always fiddlin' 'round.

Well, I love my good gal better
than a farmer likes his jersey cow.
I say, I love my good gal better
than a farmer likes his jersey cow.
Been tryin’ to quit you woman
two years, but man I don’t
know how.
I’m goin’ to the river, walk
down ‘bout the sea.
I mean I’m goin’ to the river,
I’m gonna walk down ‘bout the sea.
I’ve caught them tadpoles and
minnows arguing over me.
I done told you mama, ain’t
goin’ tell you no more.
I done told you woman, I ain’t
goin’ tell you no more.
The next time I talk with you,
I’ll hang crepe on your door.

Long Lonesome Blues
Chicago c. May 1926, Pm 12354
A position and pitch
I walked from Dallas, I walked
to Wichita Falls.
I say, I walked from Dallas, I
walked to Wichita Falls.
Hadn’t have lost my sugar, just
wasn’t gonna walk at all.
Women see you comin’, man,
go get the rocker chair.
Women see you comin’, go get
the rocker chair.
"I wanna fool this man and
make out he’s welcome here."
So cold in China, these birds
can hardly sing.
So cold in China, birds can
hardly sing.
You didn’t make me mad till
you soak my diamond ring.
Hey, mama and papa, and
papa’s papa ‘deed double do
love you, doggone it.
Somebody’s gonna tell you,
mama and papa ‘deed double
do love you.
What you cryin’ ‘bout, sugar,
papa don’t care what you do.
I know my baby, she gonna
jump and shout.

I say, I know my baby, she
gonna jump and shout.
When she gets a letter Lemon
have rolled them few days out.
Tell me what’s the matter,
baby, I can’t get no mail.
Could you tell me what’s the matter,
Papa Lemon can’t get no mail.
Mama, dreamt last night,
pulled a black cat across your
trail.
I got up this mornin’, the blues
all around my bed.
I got up this mornin’, the blues
all around my bed.
Fixin’ to eat my breakfast and
the blues all in my bread.

Jack O’Diamond Blues
Chicago c. May 1926, Pm 12373
Spanish (G)
Jack O’ Di, Jack O’ Diamond,
Jack O’ Diamond’s a hard card
to play.
Jack O’ Diamonds once in
time,
He did rob a friend of mine.
Jack O’ Diamonds is a hard
card to play.
Bet the Jack against the
Queen,
It’s gonna turn your money
green.
Jack O’ Diamonds is a hard
card to play.
You can bet the Jack agin the
Four,
You’re gonna win right in the
dough.
Jack O’ Diamonds is a hard
card to play.
Jack O’ Di, Jack O’ Diamond,
Jack O’ Diamond’s a hard card
to play.
Jack O’ Diamonds made me
cry,
I expect to gamble until I die.
Jack O’ Diamonds is a hard
card to play.

Chock House Blues
Chicago c. May 1926, Pm 12373
C position and pitch
So many wagons, it have cut
that good road down.
I said. so many wagons have
cut that good road down.
And the girl I love, her mama
don't want me around.

Baby, I can't drink whiskey, but I'm a fool 'bout my homemade wine.
Baby, I can't drink whiskey, but I'm a fool 'bout my homemade wine.
Ain't no sense in leavin' Dallas, they makes it there all the time.

These here women wants these men to act like some ox from dawn.
I say these women wants these men to act like some ox from dawn.
Grab a pick and shovel and roll from sun to sun.

I got a girl for Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday too.
I got a girl for Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday too.
I'm gonna sweeten up on a Saturday, what the womens through the week goin' to do.

Don't look for me on Sunday, I wanna take pigmeat to Sunday school.
Don't look for me on Sunday, I wanna take pigmeat to Sunday school.
She's a fine-looking fair brown, but she ain't never learned Lemon's rule.

I went home last night, fell down on my bed.

You commence to beggin' me to take you back.
You know I don't care anything for you.
Why do you worry me so? You treats me like, like you uhh fixin' to leave me now.
Baby, now I wants to tell you, you ain't been actin' right for the last thirty days.
Now, and when I come home after noon my meals is not ready.
And you know how I'm a man who can't stand such as that. I want to eat when eating time comes.
And shu- sugar, now listen here, you sure is worrying my mind.
I want you to stop that because you gon', you gonna find everything outdoors.
Every evening, half past eight, I'm laying around rich man's gate.
Workin' and studying, thinkin' out the plan.
How to get that biscuit out that rich man's hand.
Rich man's hand, rich man's hand.

Listen women, tell me what in the world is the matter with you.
You is actin' awful funny, gal, you actin' plumb naughty.
Now listen, I'm gonna tell you one thing, I ain't gonna tell you no more.
You've gotta use a new system, baby, the way you've been actin' the last thirty days.
Now, if you don't, tonight when you come home you'll find a moon wagon
At your gate and your clothes at the front gate,
And the man sittin' up there, Lord, he won't quit.
And, honey that's all.

You needn't think, babe, 'cause you're black,
I ain't gonna beg you to take me back.

Then I went a-walkin' down the line,
To see would this woman change her mind.
She turned round two or three times.
"Take you back in the winter time."

Old Rounder's Blues
Chicago c. August 1926, Pm 12394
C position pitched at C#

(Baby, listen a-here: I was wicked all last night and the night before. I believe I'll go out tonight and get wicked some more. Woo-hoo!)

I ain't gonna marry, ain't no need of settlin' down.
Ain't goin' to marry, ain't gon' settle down.
I'm gonna stay like I am, gonna ride from town to town.

There's a house over yonder painted all over in green.
There's a house over yonder painted all over in green.
Some of the finest young women there a man most ever seen.

I'm goin' into town, talk with that chief police,
I'm goin' into town, talk with that chief police,
Tell him my good gal done quit me and I can't let her see no peace.

My home's in Oklahoma, I ain't got no business here.
My home's in Oklahoma, I ain't got no business here.
I'm just stoppin' 'round to have drink with a brand new gal.

I went home last night, fell down on my bed.
I went home last night and I
I'm a stranger here, just come in on this train.
Mm-mm-mm-mm, come in on this train.
Won't some good man tell me some woman's name.

That Black Snake Moan
Chicago c. November 1926, Pm 12407
C position pitched at Bb

Ohhhh, ain't got no mama now.
Ohhhh, ain't got no mama now.
She told me late last night, "You don't need no mama no-how."

Mmm, black snake crawlin' in my room.
Mmm, black snake crawlin' in my room.
Some pretty mama better come and get this black snake soon.

Ohhh, that musta been a bedbug, baby, a chinch can't bite that hard.
Ohhh, that musta been a bedbug, honey, a chinch can't bite that hard.
Asked my sugar for fifty cents, she said, "Lemon, I ain't a child in the yard."

Mama, that's alright, mama, that's alright for you.
Mama, that's alright, mama, that's alright for you.
Mama, that's alright most any old way you do.

Mmm, what's the matter now?
Mmm, honey, what's the matter now?
Sugar, what's the matter?
"Don't like no black snake, no-how."

Mmm, wonder where's my black snake gone.
Mmm, wonder where is the black snake gone.

I'm a stranger here, just come in on this train.
Mm-mm-mm-mm, come in on this train.
Won't some good man tell me some woman's name.

That Black Snake Moan
Chicago c. November 1926, Pm 12407
C position pitched at Bb

Ohhhh, ain't got no mama now.
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Some pretty mama better come and get this black snake soon.

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Ohhh, that musta been a bedbug, honey, a chinch can't bite that hard.
Asked my sugar for fifty cents, she said, "Lemon, I ain't a child in the yard."

Mama, that's alright, mama, that's alright for you.
Mama, that's alright, mama, that's alright for you.
Mama, that's alright most any old way you do.

Mmm, what's the matter now?
Mmm, honey, what's the matter now?
Sugar, what's the matter?
"Don't like no black snake, no-how."

Mmm, wonder where's my black snake gone.
Mmm, wonder where is the black snake gone.

I'm a stranger here, just come in on this train.
Mm-mm-mm-mm, come in on this train.
Won't some good man tell me some woman's name.
Woman I love and the one I crave to see.  
Well, she's livin' in Memphis and the fool won't write to me.

I said, little woman, what have I said and done?  
Easy mama, what I've said and done?  
Easy mama, what have I said and done?  
You're treatin' me like my trouble have just begun.

BROKE AND HUNGRY  
Chicago November 1926, Pm 12443  
G position pitched at F#

I am broke and hungry, ragged and dirty too.  
I say, I'm broke and hungry, ragged and dirty too.  
Mama, if I clean up, can I go home with you?

I am motherless, fatherless, sister and brotherless too.  
I say, I'm motherless, fatherless, sister and brotherless too.  
Reason I've tried so hard to make this trip with you.

You'll miss me woman, count the days I'm gone.  
You'll miss me woman, count the days I'm gone.  
I'm goin' away to build me a railroad of my own.

I feel like jumpin' through a keyhole in your door.  
I say, I feel like jumpin' through the keyhole in your door.  
If you jump this time, baby, you won't jump no more.

I believe my good gal have found my black cat bone.  
I say, I believe my baby have found my black cat bone.  
I can leave Sunday mornin', Monday mornin' I'm slippin' round home.

I wanna show you women what careless love have done.  
I wanna show you women what careless love have done.  
Caused a man like me, steal away from home.

Girl, if you don't want me, why don't you let me know?  
I say, if you don't want me, mama let me know.  
So I can leave at once and hunt me somewhere else to go.

SHUCKIN' SUGAR BLUES  
Chicago, c. Oct. 1926  
A position, pitched at F# (3 steps low)

I've got your picture and I'm goin' to put it in a frame,  
I've got your picture, gonna put it in a frame,  
Shuckin' sugar.

And then if you leave town, we can find you just the same.

Now if you don't love me, please don't dog me around,  
If you don't love me, please don't dog me around,  
Shuckin' sugar.

Like you dog me around, I'll know you've put me down.

I know my baby thinks the world in all of me,  
I know my baby thinks the world in all of me,  
Shuckin' sugar.

Every time she smiles, she shine her light on me.

Oh, I said, fair brown, something's goin' on wrong,  
Oh, I said, fair brown, it's something's goin' on wrong,  
Shuckin' sugar.

Since the woman I love, she's done been here and gone.

Oh, listen, fair brown, don't you want to go,  
Oh, listen, fair brown, don't you wanna go,  
Shuckin' sugar.

Going to take you across the water where that brownskin man can't go.

Lord, I'm worried here, worried everywhere,  
ow I'm worried here, worried everywhere,  
Shuckin' sugar.

Now I've just started home and I'll not be worried there.

Lord, I'm tired of marryin' and I'm tired of this settlin' down,  
I say, I'm tired of this marryin', tired of this settlin' down,  
Shuckin' sugar.

I only want to stay like I am and slip from town to town.

BOOGER ROOGER BLUES  
Chicago c. December 1926, Pm 12425  
C position pitched at B

I drive to the station, woman, I bid you adieu.  
I drive to the station, then I bid you adieu.  
Tell me, you always got a fatmouth followin' you.

My baby's quit me, man, she done threwed me down.  
I said my baby's quit me, she done threwed me down.  
I wouldn't hate it so bad but that talk is all over town.

She's a long tall woman, she got relatives in Arkansas.  
Long tall woman, she got relatives in Arkansas.  
She ain't so good lookin', but, lord, them dimples is all in her jaw.

I cried all night, and all that night before.  
I say, I cried all night, and all that night before.  
Well, it's the best to get single and you won't have to cry no more.

I got ten little puppies, I got twelve little shaggy hounds.  
I got ten little puppies, and twelve little shaggy hounds.  
Well, it's gon' take them twenty-two dogs to run my good gal down.

I got a girl in Oak Cliff and Highland Park, Oak Lawn,
Lakewoods, ma'am, too.
I got a girl in Oak Cliff,
Highland Park, Oak Lawn,
Lakewoods, ma'am, too.
I'm gon' live in Magnolia
Station and watch them Mill
City women goin' through.

Some joker learned my baby
how to shift gear on a Cadillac
Eight.
Some joker learned my baby
how to shift gear on a Cadillac
Eight.
Sugar, every since that
done happened, I can't keep my
business straight.

NOTES
6.1 Oak Cliff, Highland Park,
Oak Lawn and
Lakewood are
Dallas areas. He sings
LAKEWOODS

Rabbit Foot Blues
Chicago c. December 1926, Pm
12454
A position pitched at Ab

Blues jumped a rabbit, run him
one solid mile.
Blues jumped a rabbit, run him
one solid mile.
This rabbit set down, cryin'
like a natural child.

Well, it seem like you're
hungry, honey, come and
lunch with me.
Seem like you're hungry,
honey, come and lunch with me.
I wanna stop these nice-lookin'
women from worryin' me.

I have Uneeda biscuits here
and a half a pint o' gin.
Some Uneeda biscuits here and
a half a pint o'gin.
The gin is mighty fine but
them biscuits look a little too
thin.

Baby, tell me somethin' 'bout
there are meatless and
wheatless days.
I wanna know about those
meatless and wheatless days.

This not bein' my home, I don't
think that I could stay.

That dried corn flour, indeed, I
declare it was strong.
Well, that dried corn flour,
indeed, I declare it was strong.
People feedin' me cornbread, I
just can't stick around long.

Got an airplane, baby, now
we're gonna get us a
submarine.
An airplane, now we're gonna
get us a submarine.
Gonna get that Kaiser and we'll
be seldom seen.

Mmmm-mmm, hitch me to
your buggy, mama, drive me
like a mule.
Hitch me to your buggy and
drive me like a mule.
Reason I'm goin' home with
you, sugar, I ain't much hard
to be fooled.

"Lemon, why don't you quit
tryin'?"
Doggone my bad luck soul.
"Mmm, why don't you quit
tryin'?"
Why don't you quit, I mean
tryin'?"
That joker stole off with that
long-haired brown of mine.

Sugar, you catch the Katy, I'll
catch that Santa Fe,
doggone my bad luck soul.
Sugar, you can catch the Katy
and I'll catch that Santa Fe.
I mean Santy, speakin' about
Fe,
When you get in Denver, pretty
mama, look around for me.

The woman I love's 'bout five
feet from the ground,
doggone my bad luck soul.
Hey, five feet from the ground.
Five feet from the, I mean
ground,
She's a tailor-made woman, she
ain't no hand-me-down.

I ain't seen my sugar in three
long weeks today,
doggone my bad luck soul.
I ain't seen my sugar, three
long weeks today.
Three long weeks to - I mean
day, girl,
It's been so long, seems like
my heart's gon' break.

I'm gonna run 'cross town,
catch that southbound Santa
Fe,
doggone my bad luck soul.
Mmm, Lord, that Santa Fe.
I mean the Santy, speakin'
about Fe,
Be on my way to what they call
lovin' Tennessee.

Bad Luck Blues
Chicago c. December 1926, Pm
12443
C position pitched at C#

I wanna go home and I ain't got
sufficient clothes,
doggone my bad luck soul.
Wanna go home and I ain't got
sufficient clothes.
I mean sufficient, talkin' about
clothes,
Well, I wanna go home, but I
ain't got sufficient clothes.

I bet my money, and I lost it,
Lord, it's so,
doggone my bad luck soul.
Mmm, lost it, ain't it so.
I mean lost it, speakin' about
so, now,
I'll never bet on the deuce-trey-
queen no more.

"Mama, I can't gamble."

I have Uneeda biscuits here
and a half a pint o' gin.

Black Snake Moan
Atlanta March 14 1927, OK 8455
C position pitched at Bb

Hey, ain't got no mama now.
Hey, ain't got no mama now.
She told me late last night, you
don't need no mama no-how.

Mmm, black snake crawlin' in
my room,
Mmm, black snake crawlin' in my room,
And some pretty mama had better come and get this black snake soon.

Ohh, that must been a bed-bug, you know a chinch can't bite that hard.
Ohh, that musta been a bed-bug, you know a chinch can't bite that hard.

Mama, that's alright, mama, that's alright for you.
Mama, that's alright, mama, that's alright for you.

Mmm, what's the matter now?
Mmm, honey, what's the matter now?
Tell me what's the matter, baby. 'I don't like no black snake no-how.'

Well, wonder where's the black snake gone.
Well, wonder where's the black snake gone.
Lord, that black snake, mama, done run my darlin' home.

Match Box Blues
Atlanta 14 March 1927, OK 8455
A position pitched at Ab

I'm goin' to the river, gonna walk down 'bout the sea.
I'm goin' to the river, walk down 'bout the sea.
I've caught those tadpoles and minnows arguin' over me.

Settin' here wonderin', would a match box hold my clothes.
I'm settin' here wonderin', would a match box hold my clothes.
I ain't got so many matches but I got so far to go.

Lord, mama, who may your manager be?

Hey, hey, mama, who may your manager be?
Reason I ask so many questions, can't you make arrangements for me?

I got a girl cross town, she crochet all the time.
I got a girl cross town, crochet all the time.
"Baby if you don't quit crocheting, you gonna lose your mind."

I wouldn't mind marryin', but I can't stand settlin' down.
I don't mind marryin', but I gotta settlin' down.
I'm gonna act like a preacher, so I can ride from town to town.

I'm leavin' town, cryin' won't make me stay.
I'm leavin' town-ee, cryin' won't make me stay.
Baby, the more you cry, the further you drive me 'way.

Easy Rider Blues
Chicago c. April 1927, Pm 12474
G position and pitch

Now, tell me where my easy rider's gone.
Won't you tell me where my easy rider's gone.
My reason why, these women always in the wrong.

Well, easy rider died on the road.
And it's easy rider died on the road.
I'm a poor boy here and ain't got nowhere to go.

"Soon it's gonna be the time that a woman don't need no man.
Well, it's soon there'll be a time when a woman don't need no man."

"Baby, shut your mouth and don't be raisin' sand."

The train I ride don't burn no coal at all.

Train I ride don't burn no coal at all.
The coal I was burnin' won't burn except the Cannonball.

I went to the depot
I mean, I went to the depot
and sat my suitcase down.
The blues overtake me and tears come rollin' down.

The woman I love, she must be out of town.
Woman I love, man, she's out of town.
She left me this mornin' with her face in a terrible frown.

I got a gal cross town, she crochets all the time.
I got a gal cross town, crochets all the time.
"Sugar, if you don't quit crocheting, you're gonna lose your mind."

Said, fair brown, what's the matter now?
Said, fair brown, what's the matter now?
You're tryin' your best to quit me, woman, and you don't know how.

Match Box Blues
Chicago c. April 1927, Pm 12474
A position and pitch

I'm settin' here wonderin' would a match box hold my clothes,
I'm settin' here wonderin' would a match box hold my clothes,
I ain't got so many matches, but I got so far to go.

The girl cross town gonna be my teddy bear,
Girl across town gonna be my teddy bear,
"Put a string on me and I'll follow you everywhere."

And a peg leg woman, man, she can't hardly get her dough,
I say, a peg leg woman, she can’t hardly get her dough, I left her on a late bus last night hollerin’, 'I'm sellin' jelly roll."

And I don’t see why, these women treat me so mean, I don’t see why, these gals treat me so mean, Sometime I think I'm some man these women ain't never seen.

Lord I got up this mornin', with my sho' 'nuff on my mind, Got up this mornin', same thing on my mind, The woman I love, she keep a good man worried all the time.

Now tell me mama, who may your manager be? Now tell me, who may your manager be? Reason I ask so many questions, can't you make arrangements for me?

I can't count the times I stoled away and cried. Can't count the times I stoled away and cried. Sugar, the blues ain't on me, but things ain't goin' on right.

If you want your lover, you better pin her to your side. I say, if you want your baby, pin her to your side. If she flag my train, Papa Lemon's gon' let her ride.

I ain't seen my good gal in three long weeks today. I ain't seen my good gal in three long weeks today. Said, it's been so long, seem like my heart's gon' break.

Now, excuse me, mama, from knockin' on your door. Well, excuse me, mama, from knockin' on your door. If my mind don't change, I'll never knock here no more.

Backwater risin', comin' in my windows and doors. A backwater risin', comin' in my windows and doors. I leave with a prayer in my heart, 'Backwater won't rise no more.'

Weary Dogs Blues
Chicago c. May 1927, Pm 12493[1]
C position pitched C#

Oh, Lordy, how the sun do shine,
Oh, Lordy, how the sun do shine,
And I can't get from Charleston, with that brownskin girl of mine.

They're barkin' in the mornin',
They're barkin' late at night.
They're barkin' in the morning,
They're barkin' late at night. My weary dogs bark so loud, it'll take a good man's appetite.

They wake me every mornin',
Lordy, with the risin' sun. They wakes me in the mornin',
oh, Lordy, with the risin' sun. My weary dogs don't leave me, until my day's work is done.

Me and my weary dogs started, we started out of Jackson Park,
When me and my weary dogs started, we started out of Jackson Park,
And it's music to any good man's ears, for to hear my weary dogs bark.

I can tell when it's rainin',

Blessed Assurance Blues
Chicago c. May 1927, Pm 12494[1]
A position pitched at F

I'm settin' here wond'rin' will a match box hold my clothes. I'm settin' here wond'rin' will a match box hold my clothes. I ain't got so many matches, but I got so far to go.

I say, fair brown, who may your manager be? Oh, mama, who may your manager be? Reason I ask so many questions, can't you make arrangements for me?

I got a girl cross town, she crochet all the time. I got a girl cross town, crochets all the time. "Mama, if you don't quit crocheting, you gon' lose your mind."
honey, I know when the sun
gon' shine,
I can tell when it's raining,
sugar, I know when the sun
gon' shine,
Because my weary dogs keep
me posted all the time.

Weary dogs in my young days,
weary dogs is all I crave.
Weary dogs in my young days,
weary dogs is all I crave.
Sometime I thinks weary dogs
is goin' to carry me to my
grave.

(Look out there, man, don't let
that dog bite me.)

NOTES
This is a copy of the notes from
Banjo Chris.
1. This is the flip side of Hot
Dogs which throws yet more light
on Lemon's obsession with his
feet.
2. Some discussion is current as
to whether this is 'weary',
pronounced 'wurry' in rural
Texas, or 'worried'
Black Snake Dream Blues
Chicago c. June 1927, Pm 12510
G, no guitar, accomp. George Perkins, piano

Black snake is deceitful, crawlin' all in my bed.
I say, black snake deceitful, crawlin' all in my bed.
I had a dream last night, black snake had killed my baby dead.

Hey, hey, mama, black snake's lyin' all in my hall,
Hey, mama, black snake is all in my hall,
And if you quit me, mama, you can't see that black snake at all.

Listen here, mama, black snake is wearin' my clothes,
Ohhh, listen here, mama, black snake is wearin' my clothes,
And I told you about it, and you put my trunk outdoors.

Take me back, mama, I won't be bad no more,
I said take me back, mama, I can't be bad no more,
And you can get my loving if you let that black snake go.

Black snake crawler, he said he don't mean no harm,
Black snake crawler, he say he don't mean no harm,
But I'm gettin' tired of that black snake lyin' in my baby's arms.

(Told you my feets gonna dance.
These are the hot dogs, I mean red hot.)

(Now listen to me. My feets never failed on me but once.
That was last Saturday night, down at that booger rooger
On June the Fourth.
That law come in.
I was... I was fairly choked.
He broke up that party.
Everybody got away but me.
My old feets failed on me then,
But you oughta see 'em now)

(Hmm, a rabbit wouldn't have a chance.
Not a ghost of a show.)

(Hey, hey... watch what I'm usin' everybody.)

Lemon's hot dogs movin' all the time

(These not no weary dogs, they are the hottest kind of dogs.
I mean they're steamin' puppies.)

Now on my feet's The Gypsy Hound,
You oughta see me do the Black Bottom now.

(Oh, darn my feets, my feets have went bad on me now.)

(All right folks, turn over the record.
Let me tell you all about these weary dogs of mine.)

3.2/3 June the fourth, 1927, was a Saturday.

He Arose from the Dead
Chicago c. June 1927, Pm 12585
C position pitched C#

He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

One angel came from heaven and rolled away the stone.
One angel came from heaven and rolled away the stone.
One angel came from heaven and rolled away the stone.
And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

Go tell to my disciples, meet me in Galilee.
Go tell to my disciples, meet me in Galilee.
Go tell to my disciples, meet me in Galilee.
And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

Go and tell to my disciples, go and feed my tender lamb.
Go tell to my disciples, go feed my tender lamb.
Go tell to my disciples, go and feed my tender lamb.
And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.
He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.

Hot Dogs
Chicago c. June 1927, Pm 12493
C position pitched at C#

(Feets all right, just now from the doctor.
Give me my box, and let me try 'em again.)

(Ha ha! Don't wear no crutches now.
Thowed 'em 'way last night)

Me and my feets is never late,
Me and my feet just won't wait.

(These not no weary dogs, they are the hottest kind of dogs.
I mean they're steamin' puppies.)

Now on my feet's The Gypsy Hound,
You oughta see me do the Black Bottom now.

(Oh, damn my feets, my feets have went bad on me now.)

(All right folks, turn over the record.
Let me tell you all about these weary dogs of mine.)

3.2/3 June the fourth, 1927, was a Saturday.
And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

One angel came from heaven and rolled away the stone.

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.

He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead.

And the Lord shall bear my spirit home.

I lied down last night, rolled from side to side.

Sugar, the blues ain't on me but things ain't goin' on right.

I drink so much whiskey, stagger all in my sleep.

Well, that brown 'cross town, I declare she is worryin' me.

I believe I'll sing this song, ain't gonna sing no more.

Fixin' to leave town and hang crepe on your door.

I lied down last night, rolled from side to side.

Sugar, the blues ain't on me but things ain't goin' on right.

I got a girl in Texas, I've got a brown in Tennessee.

Lord, but that brown in Chicago have put that jinx bug on me

NOTE
2.1/2/3 and 8.1/2/3 He pronounces STONE as STOON.
The S, T and N can be heard, ruling out TOMB.

Struck Sorrow Blues
Chicago c. Sept 1927, Pm 12541
A position, pitched G#

I'm goin' away, honey, it's don't you want to go?
I'm gon' away, babe, don't you want to go?
I'm gonna stop at a place I haven't ever been before.

I ain't got no wife, I ain't got no child at school.
I ain't got no wife, and I ain't got no child at school.
Reason I'm hangin' around here, man, I'm stickin' here dry long so.

If you've got a sweet woman, you better love her while you can,
If you've got a sweet woman, you better love her while you can,
For your heart'll strike sorrow when I come back to town again.

I lied down last night, rolled from side to side.

Rambler Blues
Chicago c. Sept 1927, Pm 12541
G position and pitch

Well, it's train time now, and the track's all outa line.
And I come here soon, I wanna catch that Number Nine.

I'm worried and bothered, don't know what to do.
I've been worried, I've been bothered, don't know what to do.
Reason I'm worried and bothered, it's all on the account of you.

When I left my home, I left my baby cryin'.
When I left my home, I left my baby cryin'.
She keeps me worried and bothered in the mind.

Now, don't your house look lonesome when your baby pack up and leave.
Don't your house look lonesome when your baby pack up and leave.
You may drink your moonshine but, baby, your heart ain't free.

If you take my rider, I can't get mad with you.
If you take my rider, I can't get mad with you.
Just like you've taken mine, I'll take someone else's too.

I got a girl in Texas, I've got a brown in Tennessee.
I've got a brown in Texas, one in Tennessee.
Lord, but that brown in Chicago have put that jinx bug on me

Chinch Bug Blues
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm 12551
C position and pitch

I never did feel uneasy, I know how you left your tricks.
I never did feel uneasy, I know how you left your tricks.
You leave town today and it's ten days, you've got your business well fixed.

I wonder if the chinches bite in Beaumont, oh, like they do in Beale Street town.
I wonder if chinches bite in Beaumont, like they do in Beale Street town.
The first night I stayed in Memphis, chinches bugs turned my bed around.

I had to get 'ceitful with the bedbugs, to keep the chinches from takin' my life.
I had to get 'ceitful with the bedbugs, to keep the chinches from takin' my life.
Because the chinches got my number, wrote three letters to my wife.

My wife caught me easin', way across that rich gal's room.
I said my wife caught me easin', way across that rich gal's room.
The next time I go to slip out, I ain't gonna leave on the light anymore.

My wife has quit me, and my rich pigmeat gal is too.
I say my wife has quit me, and
my rich pigmeat gal is too.
Oh, Lord, I'm lyin' in this cold
bed alone, scared with the
chinch bug blues.

Deceitful Brownskin Blues
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12551
G position pitched G#

There's a brown 'cross town
and she's taller than a
sycamore tree.
I got a brown 'cross town, taller
than a sycamore tree.
That's the gal who walks
through the rain and snow, for
to ease that thing on me.

Brownskin girl is 'ceitful, till
she gets you all worn down.
Brownskin girl is 'ceitful, till
she gets you all worn down.
She get all your pocket change,
she's gonna drive you from her
town.

Went home last night, found a
note in my brownskin's door.
I went home last night, found a
note in my brownskin's door.
"Daddy, Steady Roller has got
your room, man, you can't live
here no more."

I been worried and walkin',
walked till my feet got soakin' wet,
I commence to walkin', walked
till my feet got soakin' wet,
Tryin' to find good home,
mama, man, I ain't found none
yet.

Well the sun's gonna shine in
my back door some day.
Well the sun's gonna shine in
my back door some day.
I'll have one more drink, gonna
drive these blues away.

Lord, it's heavy-hipped mama,
and the meat shakes on the
bone.
I say, heavy-hip shakin' mama

and the meat shakes on the
bone.
Every time it shakes, it's some
fat mouth leave his home.

Sunshine Special
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12593
C position pitched C#

Bought me a railroad now, so
that Sunshine Specials can
run.
Bought me a railroad now, so
that Sunshine Specials can
run.
I got a gang of womens, man,
they ride from sun to sun.

Same old fireman, gonna keep
the same old engineer.
Got the same old fireman, the
same old engineer.
Well, that Sunshine Special's
gonna run me on 'way from
here.

Gonna leave on the Sunshine
Special, goin' in on the Santa
Fe.
Leave on the Sunshine Special,
goin' in on the Santa Fe.
Don't say nothin' about that
Katy, because it's taken my
brown from me.

Gonna ride that Kansas-Texas,
ride on to San Antone.
Ride that Kansas-Texas, ride it
on to San Antone.
Somebody's been tryin' to fire
your engine, man, ever since
you been gone.

Cotton Belt is a slow train, also
that I&GN.
I say, the Cotton Belt's a slow
train, also that I&GN.
If I leave Texas any more, I'm
gonna leave on that L&N.

Gone Dead on You Blues
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12578
A position pitched A#

Mmmmmmm, mailman's letter
brought misery to my head.
Mmmmm, brought misery to
my head.
I got a letter this morning, my
pigmeat mama was dead.

I jumped this fast mail rattler,
almost went a-flyin'.
I jumped this fast mail rattler,
and I almost went a-flyin'.
Hurry, engineerman, for my
pigmeat mama is dyin'.

Go to the telephone, and I pull
the receiver down.
Go to the telephone, pull the
receiver down.
"Hello, Central, won't you
please ring Doctor Brown?"

Mmmmmmm, "Central, what's
the matter now?
Mmmmmmm, "Central, what's
the matter now?"
I rang so hard, can't get no
doctor no how.

"Oh, doctor, doctor, what shall
a good man do?
Oh, doctor, doctor, what shall
a good man do?"
Says, "Your girl ain't dyin' but
she's done gone dead on you."

Where Shall I Be?
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12585
E position pitched F

Where shall I be when the first
trumpet sounds?
Where shall I be when it
sounds so loud?
It sounds so loud, oh, and it
wakes up the dead,
Where shall I be when it
sounds?

Look over yonder what I see.
Where shall I be?
It's a band of angels askin',
Where shall I be?

Where shall I be when the first
trumpet sounds?
Where shall I be when it
sounds so loud?
It sounds so loud, oh, it wakes
up the dead.
Where shall I be when it
sounds?

I'll be trying on my garment
when the first trumpet sounds.
Trying on my garment when it
sounds so loud.
It sounds so loud, oh, it wakes
up the dead.
Where shall I be when it
sounds?

Where shall I be when the first
trumpet sounds?
Where shall I be when it
sounds so loud?
It sounds so loud, oh, it wakes
up the dead.
Where shall I be when it
sounds?

See That My Grave's Kept
Clean
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12585
E position pitched F

Well, it's one kind favor I ask
of you.
Well, it's one kind favor I ask
of you.
Well, it's one kind favor I'll ask
of you.
See that my grave is kept
clean.

One Dime Blues
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12578
E position pitched at F

I'm broke and ain't got a dime.
I'm broke and I ain't got a
dime.
I'm broke, ain't got a dime.
Everybody gets his hard luck
sometime.

I was standin' on East Cairo
Street one day,
I was standing on East Cairo
Street one day,
Standing on East Cairo Street
one day,
One dime was all I had.

Mama, don't treat your
daughter mean.
Mama, don't treat your
daughter mean.
Mama, don't treat your
daughter mean.
That's the meanest woman a
man most ever seen.

You want your friend to be bad
like Jesse James?
You want your friend to be bad
like Jesse James?
You want your friend to be bad
like Jesse James?
Get two six shooters, highway
some passenger train.

One dime was all I had,
One dime was all I had,
One dime was all I had,
Tryin' to be a sportin' lad.

I bought that Morning News,
Lord,
I bought that Morning News,
I bought that Morning News,
Then I bought a cigar too.

Lonesome House Blues
Chicago c. October 1927, Pm
12593
C position pitched at C#

I had a dream last night all about my gal
I had a dream last night all about my gal
You can tell by that, sweet papa ain't feelin' so well

This house is lonesome, my baby left me all alone
I say, this house is lonesome, my sugar left me all alone
If your heart ain't rock, sugar it must be marble stone

(Play that thing. Sure is good. Play it like you live.)

I got the blues so bad, it hurts my feet to walk
I got the blues so bad, it hurts my feet to walk
It have settled on my brain and it hurts my tongue to talk

Blind Lemon's Penitentiary Blues
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm
12666
C position pitched at B

Take Fort Worth for your dressing and take Dallas all for your style.
Take Fort Worth for your dressing, Dallas all for your style.

If you wanna go to the state penitentiary, go to Groesbeck for your trial.
I hung around Groesbeck, and I worked in showers of rain.
I say, I hung around Groesbeck, I worked in hard showers of rain.
I never felt the least bit uneasy, till I caught that penitentiary bound train.

I used to be a drunkard, I was rowdy everywhere I go.
I used to be a drunkard and rowdy everywhere I go.
If I ever get out of this trouble I'm in, I won't be rowdy no more.

Boys, don't be bad, please don't crowd your mind.
I said, boys, don't be bad and please don't crowd your mind.
If you happen to get in trouble in Groesbeck, they're gonna send you penitentiary flyin'.

I want you to stop and study, and don't take nobody's life.
I want you to stop and study, don't take nobody's life.
They've got walls at the state penitentiary you can't jump, man they high as the sky.

'LECTRIC CHAIR BLUES
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm
12608
E position and pitch

Wanna shake hands with my partner and ask him how come he's here.
Wanna shake hands with my partner and ask him how come he's here.
"I had a wreck with my family, they're gonna send me to the electro chair."

I wonder why they electrocute a man at the one o'clock hour at night.
I wonder why they electrocute a man at the one o'clock hour of night.
Because the current is much stronger, when the folks has turned out all their lights.

I sat in the electrocutin' room, my arms folded up and cryin'.
I sat in the electrocutin' room with my arms folded up and cryin'.
And my baby asked the question, "Was they gonna electrocute that man of mine?"

"Run and get me a taxi to take me away from here.
Run and get me a taxi to take me away from here.
I didn't have but one friend in this world, fixin' to be murdered in a 'lectric chair."

'I've seen wrecks on the ocean, I've seen wrecks on the deep blue sea.
I've seen wrecks on the ocean and wrecks on the deep blue sea.
But none like that wreck in my heart when they brought my electrocuted daddy to me'.

See That My Grave Is Kept Clean
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm
12608
E position and pitch

Well, it's one kind favor I ask of you.
Well, it's one kind favor I ask of you.
Lord, it's one kind favor I'll ask of you.
See that my grave is kept clean.

It's a long lane, ain't got no end,
It's a long lane that's got no end,
It's a long lane ain't got no end,
And it's a bad wind that never change.

Lord, it's two white horses in a line,
Well, it's two white horses in a line,
Well, it's two white horses in a line,
Gonna take me to my buryin'
ground.

My heart stopped beatin' and
my hands got cold.
My heart stopped beatin' and
my hands got cold.
Well, my heart stopped beatin',
Lord, my hands got cold.
It wasn't long 'fore they took
me to the cypress grove.

Have you ever heard a coffin
sound?
Have you ever heard a coffin
sound?
Have you ever heard a coffin
sound?
Then you know that the poor
boy is in the ground.

Oh, dig my grave with a silver
spade.
Well, dig my grave with a silver
spade.
Well, dig my grave with a silver
spade.
You may lead me down with a
golden chain.

Have you ever heard a church
bell's tone?
Have you ever heard a church
bell's tone?
Have you ever heard a church
bell tone?
Then you know that the poor
boy's dead and gone.

Lemon's Worried Blues
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm
12622
A position and pitch

I'm gonna tell you why I've got
Lemon's lowdown worried
blues.
Tell you why I got Lemon's
lowdown worried blues.
I left my meal-ticket rider
barefooted, my partner slipped
in, bought her a new pair of
shoes.

Lord, I'm worried here, worried
everywhere I go.
Worried here, mama, worried
everywhere I go.
I worried my rider so late last
night, she had a movin' wagon
backed up to my door.

Mean Jumper Blues
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm
12631
C position and pitch

I feel like jumping through the
keyhole in your door.
I say, I feel like jumping
through the keyhole in your
door.
If you jump this time, baby,
you won't jump no more.

I feel like falling from treetops
to the ground.
I say, I feel like falling from
treetops to the ground.
My rider's got a mean joker and
he don't allow me around.

I go there early in the morning,
and I goes there late at night.
Don't care how late I goes
there, he have never turned
out his light.

I believe he's lookin' for me,
he's up all hours at night.
I believe he's lookin' for me,
he's up all hours at night.
She used to be my rider and he
ain't treatin' her right.

I met this joker one morning,
he was out on the outer edge of
town.
I met this joker one morning,
he was out on the outer edge of
town.
I had to talk and plead for to
keep him from blowin' me
down.

Balky Mule Blues
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm
12631
A position and pitch

(Huh. My gal musta had the
lasses. Man, she's actin' just
like a balky mule. Hey, mama,
I'm gonna ship you. That fella
hand me a tag over there, please.)

I got up this morning, I sure
was feelin' fine.
I got up this morning and I
sure was feeling fine.
I heard a rap at the door, must
be that bear-cat woman of
mine.

She was fussin' and she was
fightin' and actin' like a
doggone fool,
She was fussin', she was
fightin' and actin' like a
doggone fool,
And hemmin' and a-hawin' and
actin' just like a balky mule.
squabblin', he sure can scratch and bite.
I got up this mornin' I was easin' 'cross the floor.
Now, my bear-cat's leavin' me, ain't gon' catch my mice no more.

I was standin' on the corner when they brought me the bear-cat news.
Now, here come my bear-cat mama to run me 'way with them bear-cat blues.

Change My Luck Blues
Chicago February 1928, Pm 12369
C position and pitch

Hey, hey, mama, that risin' sun done gone.
I say, hey, hey, mama, that risin' sun done gone.
I just can't see what in the world is you waitin' on.

I've got another mama, she ain't long and o'er tall.
I say I got another mama, she ain't long and o'er tall.
But to tell you the truth man, she is soft as a butter ball.

She got Elgin movement from her head down to her toe.
And she can break in on a dollar, man most anywhere she go.

She was my best mama, but she wouldn't treat me right.
She wouldn't do nothin' but barrelhouse all night long.

I wanna get me a mama, I mean with lotsa bucks.
I wanna get me a mama, I mean with lotsa bucks.

I'm going to be gone, mama, so I can change my luck.
(Be gone, mama, be gone.)

Prison Cell Blues
Chicago c. February 1928, Pm 12622
E position and pitch

Gettin' tired of sleepin' in this lowdown lonesome cell.
Lord, I wouldn't have been here if it hadn't have been for Nell.

Lay awake at night and just can't eat a bite.
Used to be my rider but she just won't treat me right.

Got a red-eyed captain and a squabblin' boss.
Got a mad-dog sergeant and, honey, and he won't knock off.

I'm gettin' tired of sleepin' in this lowdown lonesome cell.
Lord, I wouldn't have been here if it hadn't have been for Nell.

I asked the government to knock some days off my time.
By the way I'm treated I'm 'bout to lose my mind.

I wrote to the governor to please turn me a-loose.
Since I didn't get no answer I know it t'ain't no use.

I'm gettin' tired of sleepin' in this lowdown lonesome cell.
Lord, I wouldn't have been here if it hadn't have been for Nell.

I hate to turn over and find my rider gone.
Walked across my floor, lordy, how I moaned.

Well, I wouldn't have been here if it hadn't have been for Nell.
I'm gettin' tired of sleepin' in this lowdown lonesome cell.

I wonder why my partner is sittin' around lookin' sad.
Wonder why's my partner sittin' around lookin' sad.
I mean, that woman, if she quit me, it's gonna be too black bad.

She's a spare made woman and she's cunnin' as a squirrel.
She's a spare made woman, cunnin' as a squirrel.
When she starts to lovin', man, it's out the world.

Ah, she's a dark brownskin, we always call her 'Chocolate Drop'.
She has dark brown skin and we call her 'Chocolate Drop'.
Got this old-fashioned lovin', man, it just won't stop.

When I first met the woman I figured I hadn't made no hit.
When I first met the woman, figured I hadn't made no hit.
She got this old-fashioned lovin', man, it just won't quit.

I met her at a sociable, she acts just like a crook.
I met her at a sociable, acts just like a crook.
Lord, when she starts to lovin', man it 'tain't in the book.

(Too bad mama. I mean too black bad.)

Piney Woods Money Mama
Chicago c. March 1928, Pm 12650
E position and pitch

Lord, heavy-hipped mama, she done moved to the piney wood.
My heavy-hipped mama, she done moved to the piney wood.
She's a high-steppin' mama and she don't mean no man no good.

She got ways like the devil and hair like a Indian squaw.
She got ways like the devil and hair like a Indian squaw.
She been tryin' two years to get me to be her son-in-law.

Big mama owns everything in her neighborhood,
Her big mama owns everything
in her neighborhood,
But when she made the money, that's when she lived in this piney wood.

Blues in my kitchen, blues in my dinin' room,
I say blues in my kitchen, blues in my dinin' room,
And some nice young fair brown, had better come here soon.

Well the cook's in the kitchen, pickin' and fussin' over turnip greens.
I say cook's in the kitchen, fussin' and pickin' over turnip greens.
White folks in the parlor playin' cards, and they're suppin' at cake and cream.

My baby, I love my baby like the cow loves to chaw her cud,
I say I love my baby like the cow loves to chaw her cud,
But that fool drifted off and left me, she done moved to the piney wood.

Low Down Mojo Blues
Chicago c. June 1928, Pm 12650
E position pitched at F

I love my baby better than a farmer likes his Jersey cow.
Well, I love my baby better than a farmer likes his Jersey cow.
Been tryin' to quit my sugar since two years, but man I don't know how.

When I was young on my big-foot way to school,
When I was young on my big-foot way to school,
I met a nice-lookin' brownskin, made me lose my mammy's rule.

My little rider's got a mojo, and she won't let me see.
My little rider's got a mojo, and she won't let me see.

Every time I start to lovin', she ease that thing on me.

She's tryin' to fool her daddy, she's tryin' to keep that mojo hid.
She's tryin' to fool her daddy, keep that mojo hid.
But papa's got something for to find that mojo with.

She got four speeds forward and she don't never stall.
She got four speeds forward and she don't never stall.
The way she bumps on the hill, it wouldn't make a panther squall.

Competition Bed Blues
Chicago c. July 1928, Pm 12728
C position pitched at B

Competition worryin' me, I don't even know what competition mean.
Competition worryin' me, do you realize what competition mean?
It pops up at every man's door and it worries him in his midnight dream.

I had a lovin' brown, I didn't never mean to do her wrong.
I had a lovin' brown, I didn't never mean to do her wrong.
My partner's so full of competition, he's got my gal and gone.

I passed my partner's house, I stopped in to comb my head.
I passed my partner's house, I stopped in to comb my head.
Who should I find, but my brown makin' up my partner's bed.

Almost wrecked my mind, competition's goin' between me and my friend.
Almost wrecked my mind, competition's goin' between me.
and my friend.
It hurts me so, I thought we'd be pals 'til the end.

It makes a man feel bad for his partner to turn him down.
It makes a man feel bad for his partner to throw him down.
Now it's so much competition, I believe I'll leave this town.

Lock Step Blues
Chicago c. July 1928, Pm 12679
C position

I used to shake my foots in a midnight prance.
I swear, I used to shake my feet in a midnight prance.
Now they got me doin' a different kind of dance.

Don't matter to me if it's sunshine, I mean, snow or rain.
Don't matter to me if it's sunshine, I mean, snow or rain.
Because I can't go go gay-cattin' carryin' a ball and chain.

Mean old jaller, he has taken my dancin' shoes.
Mean old jaller has taken my dancin' shoes.
I can't strut my jazzy stuff when I got them lockstep blues.

There's big rats in my cell and they keep me awake all night.
Big rats in my cell keep me awake all night.
My woman turned me down, I don't think that's right.

Every mornin', I'm walkin' down that big long hall.
Every mornin', I'm walkin' down that big long hall.

Hangman's Blues
Chicago c. July 1928, Pm 12679
G position and pitch

Hangman's rope, it sure is tough and strong.
I say, hangman's rope, it's sure tough and strong.
They're gonna hang me because I did something wrong.

I wanna tell you the gallows, honey's a fearful sight.
I wanna say the gallows, sure is fearsome sight.
Hang me down in the mornin', cut me down at night.

Mean old hangman, he's waitin' to tighten up that noose.
I said, a mean old hangman, he's waitin' to tighten up that noose.
Lord, I'm so scared, I'm tremblin' in my shoes.

Jurymen heard my case and said my hand was red.
Jury's heard my case and they said my hand was red.
And the judge sentenced for me to hang until I'm dead.

Crowd around the courthouse, for the time is drawin' fast.
Crowd around the courthouse, for the time is drawin' fast.
Sayin', a good-for-nothin' killer is gonna breathe his last.

I'm almost dyin', I was gaspin' for my breath,
Mama, I'm almost dyin', gaspin' for my breath,
And that triflin' woman is drinkin' to celebrate my death.

Sad News Blues
Chicago July 1928, Pm 12728
C position and pitch

I'm sittin here moanin', I have the letter here in my hand.
Mmmmm-mmmmm-mmm, I've got a letter here in my hand.
My faro wrote to tell me, my baby's got a brand new man.

I'm miles away from home, I ain't got no railroad fare.
I'm miles away from home, I ain't got no railroad fare.
I'm gonna beat that B&O into Baltimore, for I heard my baby was there.

I was drinkin' all night, got up this mornin' sloppy drunk.
Drinkin' all night long, got up this mornin' sloppy drunk.
I would pack my things, but somebody done stole my trunk.

I met a brown last night, I tried to get her to ease my pain.
I met a brown last night, I tried to get her to ease my pain.
Said, "You ain't got no money, so don't come back here again."

It's sad news when your baby's tramplin' on you,
I say, it's sad news when your baby's tramplin' on you,
When you know you've been doin' the very best you could do.

How Long, How Long
Chicago c. July 1928, Pm 12685
C position, pitched at C#, duet with unknown pianist

How long, how long, has that evenin' train been gone?
For how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.

Standin' at the station, watch my baby leave town.
I feel disgusted, no peace can be found.
For how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.
I can hear the whistle blowing but I just can’t see no train.
Way down in my heart, baby, there lie aches of pain.
Oh, how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.

I couldn’t keep away from wild women, bad liquor, cards and dice.
I couldn’t keep away from bad women, bad whiskey and cards and dice.
Now I’m doin’ the lockstep, baby, things ain’t going so nice.

Sometime I feel disgusted and I feel so blue.
I hardly know what in this world, baby, a good man can do.
For how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.

If I could holler just like a mountain jack,
I’d go up on the mountain, I’d call my baby back.
For how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.

Don’t matter to me whether it’s sunshine, snow or rain.
It don’t matter to me whether it’s sunshine, snow or rain.
Because I can’t go gay-cattin’ and carryin’ a ball and chain.

Some day you’re gonna be sorry you ever done me wrong.
It’ll be too late darlin’, your man’ll be gone.
For how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.

Mean old jailer, taken away my dancin’ shoes.
I say, a mean old jailer, taken away my dancin’ shoes.
I can’t strut my stuff when I’ve got those lockstep blues.

My mind goes to wondering, I feel so sad,
Thinking about the trouble a good man always had.
Oh, how long, ah, how long, baby, how long.

Big rats in my cell keeps me awake all night.
I said, big rats in my cell keeps me awake all night.
My woman done turned me down, and I don’t think that’s right.

My woman done turned me down, and I don’t think that’s right.

Every mornin’, I waltz down that big long hall.
I say, every mornin’, I waltz down that big long hall.
I’m craving for my mama, can’t make no time at all.

(Lockstep blues, people. Oh-ho.)

NOTE
This is the version on Document DOCD-5019 dated July wrongly.

I used to shake my feet in a midnight prance.
I used to shake my feet in a midnight prance.
Now they got me doin’ a different kind of dance.

12679
G position and pitch

(Thirteenth on Fridays is always my bad luck days.
Hmmm, if I could find me a hoodoo doctor I’d make my getaway.)

Hangman’s rope is, honey, so tough and strong.
Now, the hangman’s rope is sure tough and strong.
They’re goin’ to hang me because I done something wrong.

I wanna tell you the galis, Lord’s a fearful sight.
I wanna tell you the galis, Lord’s a fearful sight.
Hang me in the mornin’ and cut me down at night.

Well, a mean old hangman, he is waitin’ to tighten up that noose.
I said, mean old hangman, waitin’ to tighten up that noose.
Lord, I’m so scared, I am tremblin’ in my shoes.

Jury heard my case and they said my hand was red.
Jurymen heard my case and said my hand was red.
And judge he sentenced me, be hangin’ ’til I’m dead.

The crowd ’round the courthouse, and the time is drawin’ fast.
And the crowd ’round the courthouse, and the time is drawin’ fast.
Soon a good-for-nothin’ killer is goin’ to breathe his last.

Lord, I’m almost dyin’, gaspin’ for my breath,
Lord, I’m almost dyin’, gaspin’ for my breath,
And that triflin’ woman drinkin’ to celebrate my death.

Christmas Eve Blues
Chicago c. August 1928, Pm
Happy New Year Blues
Chicago c. August 1928, Pm
12692
C position pitched C#

(A Happy New Year, folks, to
each and everybody.)

I'm thinkin' about the year of
19 and 29,
I'm thinkin' 'bout the year of
19 and 29
New Year caught me with my
money and man I was doin'
very fine.

I was lyin' down with my baby,
we had one small quart of gin,
I was lyin' down with my baby,
we had a small quart of gin,
And the old doorbell kept a-
ingin', I wouldn't leave nobody
in.

The whistle was blowin' for
New Year, around twelve
o'clock at night
The whistle was blowin' for
New Year, around twelve
o'clock at night
I lied there arguin' with my
baby, until the good Lord broke
daylight.

Early one New Year mornin', I
was walkin' down by the mill,
I say early one New Year
mornin', I was walkin' down by
the mill,
Every man likes his liquor,
when he gets it fresh from the
still.

I hate to drink on New Year, for
this whiskey they're makin' is
too strong,
I say I hate to drink on New
Year, this whiskey they're
makin' is too strong,
Because I would take two or
three drinks, I'll be drunk the
whole day long.

(Hurry up with that Santy
Claus, bring him on around
here.)

Maltese Cat Blues
Chicago c. August 1928, Pm
12712
C position pitched C#

(Say man, I went out gay
cattin' last night, and my gal
she threw a party for me. Oooh
gee, it was tight like that!)

Rats is mean in my kitchen, I
done lost my Maltese cat.
Rats is mean in my kitchen,
and I've lost by Maltese cat.
I'm gonna make things right
with my good gal, man, and it's
tight like that.

I ain't got no suitcase, I just
have one bottle of gin.
I ain't got no suitcase, I stole
me one bottle of gin.
I got to stay drunk to keep
warm, because my clothes is so
thin.

Long, lonesome train come
passin' me a-flyin'.
Long, lonesome train come
passin' me a-flyin'.
I was thinkin' 'bout my mama,
and, man, that woman sure is
sweet.

When you've got a home, tired
of Maltese cats,
When you got a home, and are
tired of Maltese cats,
Get a good dark brownskin,
man, it's tight like that.

D.B Blues
Chicago c. August 1928, Pm
12712
E position pitched Eb

(Oh, here come Lemon in that
new Ford sedan. Oh, listen to
the motor roar.)

Who is that comin', hey, with his motor so strong?
I say, who is that comin', hey, with his motor so strong?
That's Lemon and his DB,
people thinks he's got his good luck on.

Gonna get out of my four-cylinder Dodge, I'm gonna get me a Super Six.

I'm always 'round the ladies,
and I likes to have my business fixed.

I'm crazy about a Packard, but my baby only rates a Ford.
I'm crazy about a Packard, my baby only rates a Ford.
A Packard is too expensive, Ford will take you where you want to go.

Come here, brownskin, listen to my motor roar.
Come here, fair brown, and listen to my motor roar.
Because my Super Six sufficient to take you where you want to go.

I never did like no horses, and I never could stand no seal.
Every since I'm old enough to catch a brown, they made the automobile

Eagle-Eyed Mama
Chicago c. January 1929, Pm 12739
A position, pitched G#

My woman got eyes like an eagle and she watches me all the time
My woman got eyes like an eagle, watches me all the time
The way she follows me around, Lordy it's going to be a crime

Watches me all through the day, watches me all through the night

Watch me all through the day, sister, watches me all through the night
Keeps her eagle eyes on me till the good lord brings daylight

Mmmmmmmmmmmmm, Papa Lemon's feeling so blue
Mmmmmmmmmmmmm, Papa Lemon's feeling so blue
Eagle-eyed mama's worrying me, what am I gonna do

Dog in my back yard, oh Lordy how he can howl
I said there's a dog in my back yard, oh lordy how he can howl
I'm trying to quit that eagle-eyed woman, man and I don't know how

My eagle-eyed woman, (she's) got ways I can't explain
My eagle-eyed woman, she's got ways that I can't explain
If I ever leave her, I know she's going insane

I feel like scrappin', startin' a great big old row,
I say I feel like scrappin', startin' a great big old row,
Because the woman I love, say she don't want me no how.

She swore that she loved me, but I know she doin' me wrong,
Ah, she swore that she loved me, but I know she doin' me wrong,
I'm gon' start something man, and I tell you it won't be long.

The way I feel now, I could get a keg of dynamite,
I say the way I'm feelin' now, I could get a keg of dynamite,
Put it all in her window, and blow her up late at night.

I could swallow some fire, take a drink of gasoline,
I could swallow some fire, take a drink of gasoline,
Blow it up all over that woman, and let her go up in steam.

I'm gon' get in a cannon, and let her blow me out to sea,
I'm gon' get in a cannon, and let him blow me out to sea,
Goin' down with the whales, let the mermaids makes love with me.

Disgusted Blues
Chicago c. Jan 1929, Pm 12933
C position pitched at B

I feel so disgusted, and so low down in mind,
I say I'm blue and disgusted, feelin' so low down in mind, I ain't got nobody, and my honey's so unkind.

My woman earned one dollar, I asked her to buy some gin,
My woman earned one dollar, I asked her to buy some gin,
She put me out of doors, and dared me to come back in.

I've left my house, I walkin' up and down the street,
I say I've left my house, I was walkin' up and down the street, But I ran back quick, when the cop come out on his beat.

I can't buy no liquor, I can't drink my blues away,
I can't buy no liquor, I can't drink my blues away,
I can't find my mama, to ease my pain night or day.

I'm so disgusted, I could fall right down and cry,
I say I'm so disgusted, I could fall right down and cry,
I'm broke and homeless, lord I'm so doggone dry.
Competition Bed Blues
Chicago c. January 1929, Pm 12728
C position pitched at B

Competition worrying me, do you realize what competition mean?
Competition worrying me, & do you realize what competition mean?
Pops up in every man's door & it worries him in his midnight dreams

I had a lovin' brown I didn't mean to do her wrong
Had a lovin' brown I didn't mean to do her wrong
My partner's so full of competition he got my good gal & gone

Passed by my partner's house, I stopped in to comb my head
I dropped in my partner's house, stopped in to comb my head
Who did I find but my darlin' makin' up my partner's bed

It almost wrecked my mind, competition's going between me & my friend
I said almost wrecked my mind, competition's going between me & my friend
It hurt me so I thought we's going to be pals until the end

It makes a man feel bad for his partner to turn him down
Yes it makes a man feel bad for his partner to turn him down 'Said it's so much competition I believe I'll leave this town

Sad News Blues
January 1929
C position, pitched at B

I'm sittin' here mournin', got a letter here in my hand
Mmmmm-mmm, a letter here in my hand
My faro wrote to tell me my baby's got a brand new man

I'm miles away from home, I ain't got no railroad fare
I'm miles away from home, ain't got no railroad fare
I'm gonna beat that B&O into Baltimore because I know my baby is there

I was drinkin' all night long, got up this morning sloppy drunk
Drinkin' all night long, got up this morning sloppy drunk
I would pack my clothes, somebody done stole my trunk

I got a brown last night, I tried to get her to ease my pain
I got a brown last night, I tried to get her to ease my pain
"You ain't got no money, don't come back here again"

Oil Well Blues
Chicago March 1929, Pm 12771
E position and pitch

[spoken] Oh listen to that gas, how it's blowin' and quiverin'.
It's blowing just like a... an earthquake.

Ain't nothing, mama, don't be scared at all

Tin Cup Blues
Chicago c. March 1929, Pm 12756
C position and pitch

I was standin' there cryin' my crochets wouldn't come all night
I was standin' there cryin' my crochet won't come all night/nine
And it's tough to see a man go to the wreck & almost fall and die

I sit on the corner and I almost bust my head
I sit on the corner and almost bust my head
I didn't earn enough money to buy me a loaf of bread

It ain't nothing, mama, don't be scared at all
It's a long-distance well and it's blow(n)ing oil that's all

Ain't nothing to hurt you, it ain't nothing that's bad
Ain't nothing to hurt you, honey, ain't nothing bad
It's the first oil well that your little farm ever had

I'm a long-distance driller, I'm wildcattin' the country through
I'm a long-distance driller, wildcattin' the country through
Well I'll stop wildcattin' if I bring in this well for you

I got a reputation and they call me Drilling Slim
I got a mean oil well driller, been a driller since I been a man
I'm a mean oil well driller, been a driller since I been a man
And I don't stop drilling till I strike that Woodbine sand

It's sad news when your baby's tramplin' on you
It's sad news when your baby's tramplin' on you
When you know you have done the very best you can do
Baby, times is so hard I almost call it tough
I said the times is so hard I almost call it tough
I can't earn money to buy no bread and you know I can't buy my snuff

My gal's a housemaid and she earns a dollar a week
I said my gal's a housemaid and she earns a dollar a week
And i'm so hungry on payday I can't hardly speak

Now gather 'round me people, let me tell you true facts
I said gather 'round me people and let me tell you true facts
That tough luck has struck me & the rats is sleepin' in my hat???

Big Night Blues
Chicago c. March 1929, Pm 12801
A position and pitch

My feets is so sore, I can hardly wear my shoes.
My feets is so sore, can hardly wear my shoes.
Out last night with wild women, left me with those big night blues.

I grabbed my sugar and I danced, mama, 'til the clock struck twelve.
I grabbed my sugar and I danced, sweet mama, 'til the clock struck twelve.
After razzlin' so hard with my good gal, I just ain't feelin' so well.

I'm goin' back to that wild party, get with the wild women again.
I'm goin' back to that wild party, get with wild women again.
I ain't gonna leave home, 'til I have me a quart of gin.

Wild women like their whiskey, and their gin and their rock-and-rye.
Wild women like their liquor, and their gin and their rock-and-rye.
My gal wouldn't let me go home last night and wouldn't tell me the reason why.

I turned my face to the door and my gal made an awful moan.
Mmmmmmmmm, my gal made an awful moan.
"Lord, I'll leave my lovin', daddy, because my clock is run down at home."

Empty House Blues
Chicago c. March 1929, Pm 12946
C position pitched at B

That furniture man, he's done been here and gone.
I tell you this furniture man, already done been here and gone.
Taken all my furniture, never left nothin' for me to sit down on.

Well, it's tough to be alone, when I got to have my biscuits browned.
I say, it's tough to be alone, when I've got to have my biscuits browned.
The most of these women I know, cook it with their damper down.

I miss my baby in the mornin', Lord, miss her late at night.
I miss my baby in the mornin', Lord, I miss her late at night.
I miss that midnight lovin', and you know I ain't feelin' right.

I feel so disgusted, mama, I hate to be alone.
I feel so disgusted, and I hates to be alone.
I'm gettin' some other man's lovin' when I oughta be gettin' my own.

My love is like a storm that blewed the wires all down.
I say my love is like a storm, mama, that blewed the wires all down.
Sooner you get used to my lovin', they can't keep you out of town.

Saturday Night Spender Blues
Chicago c. March 1929, Pm 12771
E position pitched E flat

Every Saturday, works and I draws my pay
Every Saturday, mama, I go to work and I draw my pay
But soon as night come, I goes out for a spendin' fling.

I have five, six and seven women, and I sure do love their corn
Five six and seven women, and I sure loves their corn
Then we go out and break 'em down, until early morn.

I don't mind no men friends, but I'm afraid they might cramp my style
I don't mind no mens, but I'm afraid they might cramp my style
I didn't like me plenty of women, but man I likes them wild.

All through the week, I works hard and I'm regularly' paid
All through every week, I works hard and I'm regularly' paid
So on a Saturday night, I can get all the lovin' I crave.

Now I can't have the good times like I once have had
And now I can't have good times like I once have had
My regular found out I's a Saturday night spender, and it sure did make her mad
That Black Snake Moan No. 2
Chicago c. March 1929, Pm 12756
C position pitched at B

Well, folks, Lemon is yet lookin’ for his black snake mama.

Mmmmmm, gonna run that black snake down,
Ohhhh, gonna run that black snake down,
I ain’t seen my mama, since black snake taken her away from town.

Mmmmmm, black snake is so hard to find,
Mmmmmm, black snake is so hard to find,
I am worried ’bout my mama, I can’t keep her off my mind.

Ohhhhh, better find my mama soon,
Ohhhhh, better find my mama soon,
I woke up this morning, black snake was makin’, this here ruckus [pronounced ’rookus’] in my room.

Black snake is evil, black snake is all I see,
Black snake is evil, black snake is all I see,
I woke up this mornin’, black snake was movin’ in on me.

Mmmmmm, mmm, black snake was hangin’ round,
Mmmmmm, black snake was hangin’ round, 
He occupied my livin’ room, and broke my ? down.

Peach Orchard Mama
c. August, 1929
A position, G# pitch

Peach orchard mama, you swore nobody’d pick your fruit but me.
Peach orchard mama, you swore that no one picked your

Big Night Blues
Chicago c. August 1929, Pm 12801
A position and pitch

My feets is so sore, can hardly wear my shoes.
Well, my feets so sore, can hardly wear my shoes.
Out last night with wild women, and it’s give me the big night blues.

I grabbed my baby and I danced ’til the clock struck

Bed Spring Blues
Richmond 24 September 1929, Pm 12872
A position pitched Ab

Got something to tell you, make the hair rise on your head.
I’ve got somethin’ to tell you, make the hair rise on your head.
Got a new way of gettin’ down, make the springs tremble on your bed.

My gal got a new way of tremblin’ down, make a crazy man leave his home.
Got a new way of tremblin’ down make, a crazy man leave his home.
When she grabs you and turns you loose, makes the flesh tremble on your bones.

(Tell me, why do them springs tremble so on your bed, baby?)

Well, my gal's got something at home that I sure do lack. A soft foldin' bed, the cover all right back.

Don't blame me mama for talkin' out my head. I say, don't blame me mama, talking out my head. I'm worried about the movements you've got and those springs tremblin' on your bed.

Yo Yo Blues
Richmond September 24 1929, Pm 12872
E position and pitch, slightly #

I would go yo-yoin' but I broke my yo-yo string. I say, I would go yo-yoin' but I've broke my yo-yo string. I believe my baby's goin' crazy, losin' her mind, Lord, the woman is goin' insane.

Don't a man feel bad when he can't yo-yo no more. Don't a man feel bad when he can't yo-yo no more. Broke my yo-yo string last night and I can't come home no more.

My sugar got ways, partner, I can't understand. My sugar got ways, partner, I can't understand. Leave me home in my bed, go yo-yo with some other man.

I love my yo-yo better than anything I know. Man, I love my yo-yo better than anything I know. I'm feelin' funny and foolish, I can't shake that thing no more.

Mosquito Moan
Richmond 24 September 1929, Pm 12899
C position pitched at B

Now, I'm sittin' in my kitchen, mosquitoes all around my screen. Now, I'm sittin' in my kitchen, mosquitoes all around my screen. If I don't arrange to get a mosquito bomb, I'll be seldom seen.

I'm gon' sleep under a tin tub, try my best to brad their bill. I believe I'll sleep under a tin tub, try my best to brad their bill. Well, mosquitoes so bad in this man's town, keep me away from my whiskey still.

I love my whiskey better than some people likes to eat. I say I love my whiskey better than some people likes to eat. Mosquitoes botherin' me so, I can't hardly stay on my feet.

I bought a spray last night, and I sprayed all over my house. I bought a spray last night and I sprayed all over my house. Mosquitoes all around my door, won't leave nobody come out.

Mosquitoes all around me, mosquitoes are everywhere I go. Mosquitoes all around me, mosquitoes everywhere I go. No matter where I go, well, they sticks their bill in me.

I would say a gabbernipper, these gabbernippers bites too hard. I would say a gabbernipper, some gabbernippers bites too hard. I've stepped back in my kitchen, and they're springin' up in my back yard.

NOTES
2.1/2 BRAD is the sound, effectively here meaning 'blunt'.
6.1/2 GABBERNIPPER is a variation of 'gallinipper', a large mosquito (Merriam-Webster).

Southern Woman Blues
Richmond 24 September 1929, Pm 12899
A position pitched at G

Way down south, you oughta see the women shimmy and shake
I said, way down south, you oughta see the women shimmy and shake
I mean they way that they wiggle, make a weak man break his neck

Stew fat meat and greens and I mean that they really can cook
Stew fat meat and greens and I mean that they really can cook
Make the jelly roll, and I mean it's out the book

I was down south and I pulled out my whiskey cup
If I was down south, pull out my whiskey cup
Just lookin' at them women makes me want to get my gage up

Southern women, man, they's hard to beat
I said Southern women sure is hard to beat
Ain't so easy to get along with but, Lo-o-ord, so sweet
I'm goin' down South and I believe I'll take my hook
Well I'm goin' down South and I believe I'll carry my hook
I'm gonna fish these Southern women and declare it's out the book
Me and my sugar hoppin out the boat
I said me and sugar, hoppin out the boat
I would go to fishin', mama, I done broke my pole
Wanna know if your jellyroll is fresh, I wanna know if your jellyroll's stale.
I'm gonna haul off and buy me some, if I have to break-a loose in jail.
It's hard to be broke, and so hungry you about to drop.
I say, it's hard to be broke, so hungry you about to drop.
If I don't get a break soon, I'll fall dead front of this bakershop.
Pneumonia Blues
Richmond September 24 1929, Pm 12880
E position pitched at D

Achin's all over, believe I've got the pneumonia this time.
I'm achin' all over, believe I've got the pneumonia this time.
And it's all on account of that low-down gal of mine.
Sneakin' 'round the corners, runnin' up alleys, too.
I say, I'm sneakin' 'round corners and runnin' up alleys, too.
Watchin' my woman, tryin' to see what she gon' do.
Stood out in the street one cold, dark stormy night.
I stood out in the street one dark and stormy night.
Try and see if my good gal gon' make it home all right.
I believe she's found something, that probably made her fall.
She must've found something, and I believe it's made her fall.
I've stood out in the cold all night and she didn't come home at all.
Wearin' BVDs in the winter, prolin' round in the rain.
Runnin' down my baby give me this pneumonia pain.
Now, when I die, bury me in a Stetson hat.
I say, when I die, bury me in a Stetson hat.
Tell my good gal I'm gone, but I'm still a-standin' pat.

Long Distance Moan
Richmond 24 Sept 1929, Pm 12852
C pitched at B flat

I fly into South Carolina, I gotta go there this time.
I fly into South Carolina, I gotta go there this time.
Woman in Dallas, Texas, is 'bout to make me lose my mind.
Long distance, long distance, will you please give me a credit call?
Long distance, long distance, will you give me a please to a credit call?
Wanna talk to my gal in South Carolina, who looks like a Indian squaw.
Just wanna ask my baby, what in the world is she been doin'.
Wanna ask my baby, what in the world is she been doin'.
Give your lovin' to another joker and it's sure gon' be my ruin.
Hey, long distance, I can't help but moan.
Mmmmmmmmm, I can't help but moan.
My baby's voice sounds so sweet, almost wrecks the telephone.

You don't know you love your rider till she's so far from you.
You don't know you love your rider until she's so far from you.
You can get long distance moan and you don't care what you do.

I think I'll use telephonin' to get my darlin' off my mind.
So I'll use telephonin', get my baby off my mind.
This long distance moan 'bout to worry me to death this time.

That Crawlin' Baby Blues
Richmond 24 September 1929,
Pm 12880
G position, pitched at F

Heard a baby cryin', crawlin' up to his mama's knee.
Heard a baby cryin', up to his mama's knee.
He's cryin' 'bout his sweet milk and she won't feed his Jersey cream.

Crawl from the fireplace and he stopped in the middle of the floor.
Well, he crawled from the fireplace and stopped in the middle of the floor.
Said "Mama, ain't that your second daddy standin' back there in the door?"

Well, she grabbed my baby and spanked him, I tried to make her leave him alone.
She just grabbed my baby and spanked him, I tried to make her leave him alone.
I tried my best to stop her and she said this baby ain't none of mine.

Some woman rocks the cradle, and I declare she rules her home.
Woman rocks the cradle, and I declare she rules her home.
Many a man rocks some other man's baby and the fool thinks he's rockin' his own.

Went out late last night when I learnt the crawlin' baby's news.
I say, it was late last night when I learnt the crawlin' baby news.
My woman threw my clothes outdoors, now I got the crawlin' baby blues.