



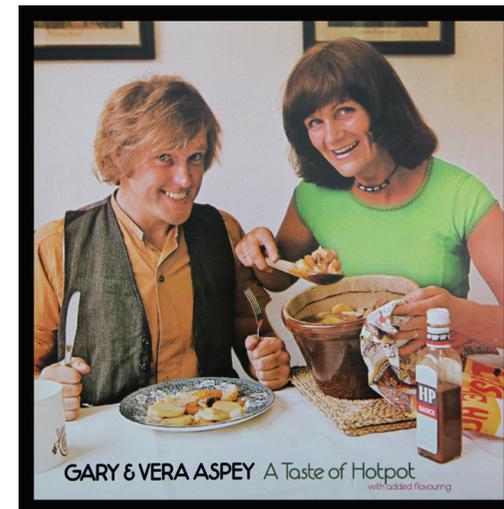
GARY & VERA ASPEY · A Taste of Hotpot
with added flavouring

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Gary & Vera Aspey

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The Eskdale and Ennerdale Hunt Song

This excellent hunting song, which gives the feeling of being carried along with the excitement of the hunt belongs, as the title states, to one of the Six Fell Packs of Cumberland. It is a slightly shortened version of the original and mentions Bill (or Will) Porter, who became Master of the Eskdale and Ennerdale Pack in 1910, succeeding Tommy Dobson who founded the pack and was Master from 1857 to 1910. Composed by Dr WS Eaton of Ennerdale. The melody appears to be a sprig of the well known tune family that has given us *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* and *Mademoiselle from Armentiers*.

Weepin' an' Wailin' Away

Ever since man first dug for coal under ground, there have always been women left above to 'weep and wail'. Although, in these times, the wives of coal miners are not found 'weepin' and wailin'" when their men go down the pits, nevertheless, it illustrates the apprehension still felt. Written by Ted Edwards, who spent a number of years working in the coal mines. The tune is related to that of the American song *The State of Arkansas*.

The Shuttle Kissing Song

'Shuttle Kissing' was an expression used by weavers in the factories to describe the act of sucking the yarn (or thread) through a small hole at the top of the shuttle because threading was an impossible task. Although the song portrays a humorous situation between the Tackler (chargehand or foreman) and Curly Topping (the weaver), the reference in the last verse to rotting teeth shows the not-so-funny side of kissing the shuttle, because the size and lime in the yarns rotted the teeth of a lot of weavers with the constant sucking. The holes were replaced later by a simple split in the head of the shuttles. Sam Fitton, one of the old Lancashire dialect writers, penned the words to which we added the tune.

Foddered Me Yowes

This was sung to us by a Cumbrian huntsman and relates to a farmer's plight of not having enough fodder to see his animals through winter. 'A little bit on the balks' refers to the small amount of hay left on the beams of the barn. The words are set to the well known tune of *McNamara's Band*.

The Nightingale

A rather humorous version of the very popular 'nightingale song', versions of which have been in print since 1675 at least. As with other variants, the symbolism (as old as Boccaccio - see the fourth story of the 5th day of the *Decameron*) is woven into the verses.

Don't Get Married Girls

Written by Leon Rosselson. Leon states magnificently so much that must ring true to a lot of married women. So, take warning, girls!!!!

Kids' Songs

A part of our growing-up - the songs from the schoolyard. Such songs vary, of course, from district to district, but you'll probably find that you are able to relate them to your own versions, as you listen to this small collection, remembered from our own childhood days.

The Coal Hole Cavalry

Once again Ted Edwards has captured in song the aura of the days when pit clogs rattled down cobbled streets. In a half-sleep, after being woken by the first sound of the clogs, a child lies in bed listening to the sounds below - the bustle of activity as his Mam makes preparation to get his Dad off to work. And in his imagination he can hear the marching of the 'cavalry' - so 'bugger off injuns'. The morning hooter calling the men to work is, to him, the victory call. A sad song, to our mind, because the child's thoughts cover the reality of the conditions that the men had to work in at that time down the coal mines.

Morning Stands on Tiptoe

We finish as we began, with another hunting song. A favourite of ours which we enjoy singing. The reference to 'puss' in the last verse applies to any furry animal.

Last, but not least, we wish to express our thanks to the members of the clubs where these recordings were made for getting stuck in and providing such gusty choruses.

Recorded in performance at the Scotgate Folk Club, Scotgate Inn, Stamford, Lincs, March 1976; the Chipping Sodbury Folk Club, The George, Chipping Sodbury, Glos, March 1976; and the Lord Coniers, Kiveton, Yorks, May 1976.

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