

In A Far Off Golden West

As sung by
Lee Tester

Originally in Bb
07-27-1941 Rhinelander, WI.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The second line starts with a measure rest, then a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The third line starts with a measure rest, then a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The score ends with a double bar line.

We were sit - ting a - round our camp - fires in a far off gol - den West, all a -
5 jok - ing of old sweet - hearts far a - way, when Jim Brown, a si - lent mem - ber, [his
10 cords they spoke on Jean] said, "Fel - lows, I ob - ject to what you say."

Verse 1.

We were sitting around our campfires
In a far off golden West,
All a-joking of old sweethearts far away,
When Jim Brown, a silent member,
[His cords they spoke on Jean]
Said, "Fellows, I object to what you say."

Verse 2.

"There's a girl down in Ohio,
That dear old buckeye state,
Who promised to be faithful 'til I come.
I have here her loving message,
On it my life I'd stake,
A letter from Ohio home sweet home."

Verse 3.

After months of lucky toiling
And ol' Jim had made his stay,
The postman came one morning with his pang.
Oh the postman came that morning
With his pack strap on his back,
With a letter from Ohio [marked in black.]

Verse 4.

He called each name out clearly,
He called the name of Jim,
For Jim stepped slowly forward pale as clay.
He read it o'er in silence,
Oh how we pitied him,
"She's dead," we heard him whisper then and say:

Verse 5.

"It's a letter from Ohio,
That dear old buckeye state,
A [brithing] of the old home and the one who said she'd wait.
I have here her loving message,
On it my life I'd stake,
A letter from Ohio home sweet home."

Critical Commentary

HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

Lee learned this song from his father.

K.G.