Dan Doo

As sung by
Charles Dietz
09-02-1946 Monroe, WI

Verse 1.
There was a good man lived out west, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
There was a good man lived out west,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
He had an old wife that was not of your best,
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 2.
This good old man came in from his plow, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
This good old man came in from his plow,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
Said he, “Old wife, is breakfast ready now?”
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 3.
“There’s some dry bread and meat in on the shelf, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
There’s some dry bread and meat in on the shelf,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
If you want more than that, you can git it yourself.”
And it’s harum, barum, compario.
Verse 4.
This good old man went down to the sheep-fold, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
This good old man went down to the sheep-fold,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
He caught a sheep and did him hold,
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 5.
He hung this sheep on a hickory pin, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
He hung this sheep on a hickory pin,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
And away he jerked him out of his skin,
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 6.
He put this sheepskin on his old wife’s back, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
He put this sheepskin on his old wife’s back,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
The two little sticks, they went whickity whack,
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 7.
“I’ll go tell my father and mother and all my kin, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
I’ll go tell my father and mother and all my kin,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
You’ve whaled me once, and you won’t do it again.”
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 8.
“You can go and tell your father and mother and all your kin,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
But I’ve whaled you once and I’ll do it again.”
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

Verse 9.
This good old man traveled fourteen miles in fifteen days, Dan Doo, Dan Doo;
This good old man traveled fourteen miles in fifteen days,
Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.
And if you don’t cut a lap getting out of the way fast,
And it’s harum, barum, compario.

_Transcription from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection, lyrics from Peters._
Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 170.

HST notes:
In the Professional Papers series:
(The Wife Wrapt in Wether’s Skin)
Sung by Charles Dietz, age 75, Monroe, 1946.

This ballad is commonly known as The Wife Wrapt in Wether’s Skin. Mr. Dietz learned it as a boy in Green County from his mother who came from New York state.

Editor’s notes:
Vance Randolph notes the relationship of this song to Child no. 277 (Randolph 187). There are many versions of this song, as evidenced in the list of alternate titles. In the last verse, the husband beats his wife and she threatens to tell her family; in Dietz’s version the husband replies: “I’ve whaled you once and I’ll do it again.” McNeil’s version (and others) say “I was only tanning my old sheep skin” (McNeil 60).


Sources:

K.G.