

# Dan Doo

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

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged paper. It consists of four staves of music in a 2/4 time signature, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'There was a good old man, lived out west, Dan Doo, Dan Doo, There was a'. The second staff continues with 'good old man, lived out west, Tom Kling-klass Mc - Kling-gle. He'. The third staff has 'had an old wife that was none of your best, and it's har-um, bar-um, com-par - i - o.'. The fourth staff concludes with 'Hick - y - u - ka-tack klem-ing-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc - Kling - gle.'.

## 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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

## 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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

## 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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

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.  
Hicky-u-ka-tack kleming-go, Tom Kling-klass Mc-Kling-gle.

*Transcription from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection, lyrics from Peters.*

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## 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).

Alternate titles/related songs: "Wife Wrapt in Wether's Skin," "Bando," "Dan-Doodle-Dan," "Dindo-Dan," "Gently Fair Ginny," "Gently Virginia," "Jennifer Gently," "Jenny Flow," "Gentle Rosemary," "John Dobber," "Jock O McKee," "Kitty Lorn," "Nickety, Nackety, Old Man Come In from his Plow," "The Old Man in the West," "The Old Sheepskin," "Robin He's Gone to the Woods," "The Scolding Wife," "Sweet Robin," "The Wee Cooper o' Fifle," "Old Wetherskin," "Lazy Woman," "Geely Don Mac Kingo."

### Sources:

Flanders, Helen Hartness, Marguerite Olney, collectors. *Ballads Migrant in New England*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1953. "Wife wrapt in whether's skin" different tune.

Flanders, Helen Hartness, and Helen Norfleet. *A Garland of Green Mountain Song*. Green Mountain Pamphlets, no. 1. Northfield, Vt.: 1934.

McNeil, W.K., ed. *Southern Folk Ballads*, vol. 2. The American Folklore Series, ed. W.K.

McNeil. Little Rock: August House Publishers, 1987. "The Wife in Wether's Skin – Dan Doo!" and "Geely Don Mac King Go."

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

Randolph, Vance, collector and editor. *Ozark Folksongs*. Vol. I. Columbia, Mo.: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1946-50. Tune has some similarities.

Sharp Cecil J., and Maud Karpeles, collectors. *Eighty English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians*. London: Faber and Faber, 1968. "Wife wrapt in whether's skin."

K.G.