

TRANSCRIPTION

Belle Stewart sings “Whistlin at the Ploo”

ScottishVoicesProj.0567

[This recording was made at a ceilidh hosted in July 1984 by the singer and educator Sheila Douglas, and her husband, the poet and educator Andrew Douglas, at their home in Scone, Perthshire. Present were Belle Stewart (the guest of honor) and her neighbor or relation Nellie Higgins; John Niles and his wife Carole Newlands; two other friends of the Douglas's; and a visiting American couple. There is some cross talk at the start of this excerpt.]

AD I'd like to hear “Whistlin at the Ploo.”

BS “Whistlin at the Ploo”? The one I wrote myself? [*Sings:*]

- 1 Oh I'm just a common plooman lad
that whistles at the ploo
The story I'm about to tell
will seem gey queer to you [gey: very
For I'm no keen on skiffle groups
nor onything that's new
But I am quite contented
just gaan whistlin at the ploo.
- 2 Noo I'm working wi a fairmer
and he bides no far frae Crief
But if he'd hired a teddy boy
I'm sure he'd come to grief
With this new-fangled rock an roll
and other things that's new
Na, he wouldna be contented
just gaan whistlin at the ploo.
- 3 Noo just tak a common plooman lad
that works amang the neeps [neeps: turnips
I'm sure he wouldnae feel at ease
in a pair o yon tight breeks
Nor wi his hair grown ower lang
and hangin ower his broo [broo: brow
Na, he wouldnae be contented
just gaan whistlin at the ploo.
- 4 But we cannae blame the teddy boys
that's just their way o life
So I think that I will settle doon

and tak mysel a wife
We'll bide in yon wee cottar hoose
and she'll neer hae cause tae rue
Of the day she wed our plooman lad
that whistles at the ploo.

5 Noo I think my story's ended
 but I'm sure that you'll agree
There's nae life like a plooman's life
 as far as I can see
We rise content in the mornin
 and we work the hail day through
And we never seem tae worry when
 we're whistlin at the ploo.

All: *[Applause and words of appreciation.]*

AD= Andrew Douglas

BS= Belle Stewart