

Shanghai Rooster

As sung by
Adolph Williams
08-13-1946 Hayward, WI



Verse 1.

I had a farm out west, of farms it was the best.
Had a cross-eyed mule with freckles and red hair.
And one old Shanghai rooster with a wart on his left ear.
But now he's dead and climbed the golden stair.

Chorus

Oh his fur was like a toothbrush, his comb was like an ax.
His head caved in like a sugar hogshead stave.
Now the hens are all on strike, haven't laid since Friday night.
They are weepin' o'er my Shanghai rooster's grave.

Verse 2.

No more he'll come home late, at the hour of half-past eight
Singin' cock-a-doodle-do and goodbye Nell.
For my poor old Shanghai rooster in battle nobly fell.
With the neighbor's bulldog he fought long and well.

Verse 4.

He'll never crow again, wink his eye at some old hen.
Oh, I often said he should have been in jail.
Now the only thing that keeps me from going' out and getting' drunk
Is a feather from my Shanhai rooster's tail.

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

Critical Commentary

Transcription by Peters, p. 271.

Alternate titles/related songs: "Farm Out West"

Sources:

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K.G.