

Interview with Irene Williams, Rome, Mississippi, 1940

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[Mrs. Taylor (?): All right. *[Mrs. Taylor speaks before Irene Williams sings]*

Old Lady Goose

Old Lady Goose done turn a loose. Where am that Old Lady Goose, goose, goose, goose?

Old Lady Goose. Old Lady Goose. Old Lady Goose, goose, goose, goose, goose. Where am *[audio distortion]* that Old Lady Goose?

I look down the pasture. Look down the main. Can't find no Lady Goose again.

Old Lady Goose. Old Lady Goose. Where am that Old Lady Goose?

It's just like that Old Lady Goose. Whenever I is turned a loose. Old Lady Goose, goose, goose, goose, goose. Can anybody find my Old Lady Goose?

Old Lady Goose was a sitting in the pasture. And I went down right there at a her. But Old Lady Goose. Goose. Goose. Goose. Old Lady Goose. Where am that Old Lady Goose?

John A. Lomax: And hold it up Mrs. Taylor and let her sing that tra-la-la about the jaybird *[disc scratch]* jaybird that sings.

Jay Bird Singing

Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee. Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee.

Jaybird sitting in the top of the tree. Tra-la-la-la-lee. Jaybird sitting in the top of the tree. Tra-la-la-la-lee.

Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee. Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee.

Jaybird sitting in the top of a tree. Looking down at me. Jaybird sitting in the top of the tree. Looking down at me.

Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee. Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee.

Jaybird sitting in the top of the tree. With his fiddle on his knee. Jaybird sitting in the top of the tree.
With a fiddle on his knee.

Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee. Oh, swing, swing, swing. Oh, swing little Cora Lee.

John A. Lomax: Thank you.

Mrs. Taylor: ??? .

Irene Williams: I played we linked up. And one at the foot of start singing and I said, when I said
"house" then one stood yonder and everybody go on each other arm. And go around in one another
and then we link up again. Then we go singing.

Mrs. Taylor: ??? .

[Irene Williams' singing is punctuated by a whistling steam engine]

Drink Water

[Red light. Red light roll over. Give me a cold of drink water (?)]. [Red light. Red light roll over. Give me
a cold of drink water (?)]. [I come when the sun stood yonder. Give me a cold of drink water (?)]. [I
come when the sun stood yonder. Give me a cold of drink water (?)].

[Red light I roll right over. Give me a cold of drink water (?)]. [Red light I roll right over. Give me a cold
of drink water (?)].

[I come when the ??? stood yonder. Give me a cold of drink water (?)]. [I come when the ??? stood
yonder. Give me a cold of drink water (?)].

[Old costume in the cold water. Give me a cold of drink water (?)]. [Old costume in the cold water.
Give me a cold of drink water (?)].

Mrs. Taylor: Is that all?

Irene Williams: Yes.

Mrs. Taylor: [*in a voice barely audible*] Say that this song was sung by, sung by Hattie Garce. This song was sung by ??? .

Irene Williams: This song was sung by Hattie Garce, at [Livingston (?)], Alabama. [*a rooster crows*]

Mrs. Taylor: I ??? .

Irene Williams: We ring up this play and one would get in the ring and we all go round and the one that get in the middle would start the singing.

[*snorting steam engine rolls by while she sings*]

Ring Go Round

All the way round the ring go round see that girl in the middle? See that girl with the coal black hair kiss her and call her honey.

All the way round the ring go round see that girl on the middle? See that girl with the coal black hair kiss her and call her honey.

All the way round the ring go round see that girl on the middle? See that girl with the coal black hair kiss her and call her honey.

Mrs. Taylor: [Is that all (?)]?

Irene Williams: Yes.

Mrs. Taylor: [*in a voice barely audible*] Tell them that the song was sung by [Hattie Garce (?)].

Irene Williams: This song was sung by Hattie Garce, at [Livingston (?)], Alabama.

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