

Memories of Sheldon Johnson: Songs My Dad Taught Me

Don't You Believe It

When I was a kid about twenty
and thought I knew 'bout everything
I met a man on the corner
who sold me a beautiful ring.

He said, now kid, it's a bargain!
The gold is the finest that's seen.
I guess it must come from Ireland,
'cause it turned my finger green!

Oh, don't you believe it!
I don't give a darn what they say!
This whole wide world's full of liars
and a new one is born every day!

They said there was gold in Alaska,
so I started off in a huff.
Now gold was something I needed,
because I just don't have enough!

I bought me a pick and a shovel
and dug night and day without rest,
but all I got for my troubles
was a doggone good cold in the chest!

Oh, don't you believe it!
I don't give a darn what they say!
This whole wide world's full of liars,
and a new one is born every day!

My Name is Yon Yonson

My name is Yon Yonson,
I come from Wisconsin.
I work in a lumbermill there.
Every girl that I meet
when I walk down the street
says, "Hello! What's your name?"
And I say:

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The song goes on and on, each time he meets a new girl, apparently. Dad loved this song, because he owned a lumbermill, and his name was Johnson. It seemed to be of great humor to him. We loved hearing him sing it and joke with us.

On, I Don't Work For a Living

Oh, I don't work for a living,
I get along okay without.
I don't toil all day
I guess it's because I'm not made that way.
Some people work for love,
and say it's all sunshine and rain
but if I can't get sunshine without any work
I guess I'll stay out in the rain!

Oh, give me a nail and hammer
and a picture to hang on the wall
and give me a strong step ladder.
You know that I might fall.
Now give me a couple of waiters
and a jug of good old Bass ale
and I'll bet you I'll hang up that picture,
if someone will dr-i-i-ve the nail!

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I get along alright without.
I don't toil all day.
I guess it's because I'm not made that way.
Some people work for love,
and say it's all sunshine and rain
but if I can't get sunshine without any work
I guess I'll stay out in the rain.

Dad never did have a jug of anything, but he did have a great sense of humor, and the idea of a guy getting along without any work seemed ludicrous to him! Pretty funny!