

Library of Congress

## ["Blues" Songs]

[Accession?] no.

[W 3649?]

Date received

10/10/40

[Consignment?] no. 1

Shipped from

Wash. Office

[Label?]

[Amount?]

3p

[???

WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Form—3

Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title "Blues" songs

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 5/11/39

## Library of Congress

Project worker Hilda Polacheck

Project editor

Remarks

[W3649?]

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview [?]

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

No. Words

[?]

MAY 26 1939

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Hilda Polacheck

ADDRESS 1410 East 57th Street

DATE May 11, 1939

## Library of Congress

SUBJECT "Blues" Songs

1. Date and time of interview -

2. Place of interview -

Chicago Public Library

3. Name and address of informant

4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.

5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FORM C

Text of Interview ( Unedited )

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

No. Words

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Hilda Polacheck

ADDRESS 1410 East 57th Street

## Library of Congress

DATE May 4, 1939

SUBJECT "Blues" Song

NAME OF INFORMANT

### The Gouge of Armour Avenue

Down on Armour Avenue, They call it Federal Street today, I heard a couple raising cain  
Just as I chanced along that way, He must have been a hen-pecked man Or some such  
kind of bird, For though she slipped him In the dozen only This from him I heard. Oh, Oh,  
baby, "Hold" your tongue Give me that noise, Oh, Oh, baby, hold your tongue I've been  
with the boys Baby why do you keep fretting, When your daddy feels for petting, That's  
the way to make your daddy Love his baby. Music hath the charm they say, To soothe  
the savage breast He started the victrola off And folks it sure was at its best, It did have  
charms — For in his arms I seem to see her sway, When he taught her some new dance  
steps — 'Twas then I heard her say: Oh, Oh, baby, that's so nice — It's so nice, Do it a  
long time or do it twice Do it twice.

1

Then a copper came by copping, Picked me up 'twas for eaves-dropping, While they  
danced the Gouge of Armour Avenue.

### The Chicago Gouge

Chicago is the city for Stomps and struggles, All 'round darktown and everybody's giving  
chittlin juggles, From the deacon down, I've seen 'em rip an' romp, To find some house  
rent stomp, I've seen society of the South-side Variety strutting to some strut-in moonshine  
And for what else but more moonshine Chittlins, bread an' gin, I saw a hungry man eat  
all the gut strings on a violin. Down at a Chittlin rag, They played a fiddlin' drag, I took

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my pencil out in all that scrouge And named that music "Gouge", Just for the landlords  
Chicago's gouge, And for the swell broads, they really gouge.

(This is a circle-game that has been played by children the world over since the fourteenth century).

Oats, peas, beans, and barley grows, Oats, peas, beans, and barley grows, Nor you nor  
I nor nobody knows How oats, peas, beans, and barley grows. Thus the farmer sows his  
seed, Thus he stands and takes his ease, Stamps his foot and claps his hands, And turns  
around to view his lands, Awaiting for a partner, Awaiting for a partner, So open the ring  
and choose one in, Make haste and choose your partner. Now you're married, you must  
obey, You must be true to all you say. You must be kind, you must be good, And keep  
your wife in kindling wood.