

# SINGABOUT

**AUGUST 2015**

## OLD AND NEW



Rick Hull has taken his hand to the manufacture of musical instruments. This is his first accordion, a real work of art!

Photo: Sandra Nixon

## One of the Has-beens



## One of the Has-Beens

I'm one of the has been a shearer I mean  
I once was a ringer and I used to shear clean  
I could make the wool roll off like the soil from the plough  
But you may not believe me for I cant do it now

### *Chorus*

I'm as awkward as a new chum and I'm used to the frown  
That the boss often shows me saying keep them blades down

I've shore with Pat Hogan, Bill Bright and Jack Gunn  
Tommy Leighton Charlie Fergus and the great roaring Dunn  
They brought from the Lachlan the best they could find  
But not one among them could leave me behind

It's no use complaining I'll never say die  
Though the days of fast shearing for me have gone by  
I'll take the world easy shear slowly and clean  
And I merely have told you just what I have been

### **Notes**

Printed in Stewart and Keesing Old Bush Songs with the note: "From Mrs G.L.Ginns, of Merrylands, NSW". (Written by Robert Stewart) From the singing of A.L.Lloyd, who writes on the notes for Across the Western Plains that he heard it in Cowra, NSW when he was working there in the 1920's. Tune 'Pretty Polly Perkins'

Published on folkstream: <http://folkstream.com/069.html>

This traditional song is parodied by Don Henderson in his book *A Quiet Century* as follows:

I'm one of the has-beens. A folk song I mean.  
In oral transmission I once was serene.  
Illiterate agrarians my worth would avow,  
but you may not believe me 'cause they don't do it now.

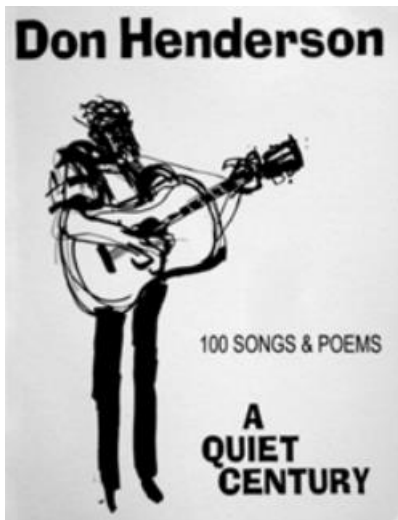
*Chorus*

I'm as awkward as a new one, much more cap and gown  
than a blithe air of arcadia; I've been written down.

Eluding the Banjo, Vance Palmer, Bert Lloyd,  
Jones, Durst and O'Connor I did likewise avoid.  
Manifold, Meredith, Tate, de Hugard,  
both Scotts, all found finding me was too hard.

One day while engrossed in making a whip,  
my current custodian let his version slip.  
Ron Edwards was on hand and wrote down all that,  
while feigning description of the sixteen strand plait.

Oh, it's no use complaining, I'll never say die,  
though the variant days for me have gone by.  
Now captured in MS, stave and magazine,  
I merely have told you just what I have been.



Book available from:

Don Henderson Project  
<http://donhenderson.com.au/>

## The Bundanoon Report 2015

I don't know where to start  
You've often heard it said  
You'd better have a go now  
You'll be a long time dead

Let's have a look at Friday  
With the Fancy and the flare  
The music, the excitement  
I wished You could be there

Then Saturday, the workshops  
Keen dancers took the floor  
The jigs, the reels, the polkas  
The dancers begged for more

Sunday; after church of course  
We danced the Highland fling  
Waltzes of the years gone by  
You felt like you're the King

Sunday, when I hit the sack  
My mind went wondering back  
"Was that a triple minor?  
Or a long way set of three?  
Or a double duple minor  
With a major chord of C?"

The Monday morning workshops  
To clear the head of pain  
Don taught some flowery waltzes  
With music for the same

The day had nearly ended  
Dave Johnson took the floor  
We'd better make some history  
Before we close the door

The stayers, worn and weary  
Still steaming with delight  
"On the cue", said David  
The picture quite polite

Please come and join us next time  
I'll close now with this quote  
We welcome you; the stranger,  
"The stranger"; please take note.

*Mike Waters*