

IT AIN'T A QUESTION
OF WHAT YA DO.....

IT'S

A QUESTION OF
WHAT YA DO
WITH WHAT YA GOT

The Bad Axe River Valley Tapes Song Book:

"It ain't a question of what ya do.....

It's a question of what ya do with what ya got"

By John E Martin

The song book lyric excerpts that follow were created
on a manual typewriter in the Bad Axe River Valley.

Cricket

For All Us Children

Crazy Casey

About Us

Nathan (a childrens' song)

Other Matters

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CRICKET

You are you
And I'm me
You're on top
You ain't free.

You're a man
Whose words do ring
The country listens
When you sing
Big deal

If you knew
What I know
And what I know is
I don't know

Life ain't sad
It ain't no bust
You're just old
Do what ya must
Guess ya paid your dues

Me, I sniff.
A bright new breeze
The 'Idiot Wind' if ya please
May be a fool
To think this way
But ya had your chance
Ya had your day
Can't do it over

So I'll sing and I'll play
What I damn well please
I hope ya cough
I hope ya sneeze
But I thank ya friend
Ya learned me alot
Mostly about
What you are not
Another one of those cheep copies
Can't afford a harmonica

FOR ALL US CHILDREN

Did you ever see anything beautiful?
I'd like to tell ya this
A dog and a cat are supposed to fight
I know two who live in happiness

They play together
Maybe they're both kids
The dog won't hurt a soul, he'll use his teeth,
But he knows what he did

Well the dog food's in the kitchen
The cat has another dish
The dog, it eats it's dog food
And the cat chomps down its fish

They both get thirsty
There's only one water pot
It sits between the food they have
And from it both do lap it up

They play together
Maybe they're both kids
The dog won't hurt a soul, he'll use his teeth,
But he knows what he did

Well the cat stands on its hind feet to play
Thinks there's a tiger in its soul
Whatever they have I wish I had some of it
Oh they're even warm in the cold

They play together
Maybe they're both kids
The dog won't hurt a soul, he'll use his teeth,
But he knows what he did

A growl or a scratch sometimes you'll hear
But then it's back to rest
They go outside and play somemore
Oh, I think it's for the best

They play together
Maybe they're both kids
The dog won't hurt a soul, he'll use his teeth,
But he knows what he did

Did you ever see anything beautiful?
I'd like to tell ya this
A dog and a cat are supposed to fight
I know two who live in happiness

CRAZY CASEY

He lived on top of a mountain
Had'nt seen nobody in years
His mail was dropped out of an airplane
Once it got stuck in his ear

He mailed off for a blown up picture
For his lover Charlie the hog
Some say that pig is quite crazy
Everyone knows your best friend's a dog

snort snort

bark bark

Well he filled out the forms for the pictures
That's the dog, not the man anymore
Signed his name, German Shepherd, and number
And said, "What what what what am I for? - 999-0004-692?"

His letter got lost in the shuffle
And his name and his number were read,
"I need sugar 'cause I'm savin' Germans
Send a sample for each loaf of bread - 9,990,004,692"

one of them
liberal dogs

So they filled out his order for samples
On those rectangle cards full of holes
The mail came in a fleet full of airplanes
747's I'm told

The man, he was burried in sugar
It floated on down from the sky
For once he stopped eatin' his honey
Oh he was quite a sticky old guy

stuff makes me
nervous

Well he dug out from twelve tons of sugar
From quite a bit less you could die
Shook his fist at that fleet of male airplanes
And hollered out, hollered out, "Why?"

Well the dog, he came runnin' right over
And he barked out as loud as he could
Somethin' 'bout cards and a number
The man saw the dog tag as he stood -999-0004-692-

The man, he then put it together
The samples, they all read the same
"Ship to a Mr. German Shepard
These samples from our sample machine."

So he climbed on off of the mountain
Went to town to find that machine
He found it all shinin' and blinkin'
But inside it weren't very clean....
He said, "Listen here machine;
I ain't gonna take any more of your sugar."

blink beep

The machine started blinkin' and beepin'
And it spit out a punch card that read,
"Mr. man from on top of the mountain,
I've got something on you," and it read, "999-0004-692"

The man went back up to the mountain
Where the dog tag was nailed to a tree
So the letters, well, they keep on comin'
And the samples of sugar are free How how how how how
How sweet is it?

ABOUT US

There, is a bright new movement
Can't explain but I'll say this
You all are movement leaders
Leaders are anonymous
We thrive upon each other
Vibrations are our food
They come from California
From New York, the earth, and you
So work at your alternative
Pursue it now, with zeal
The movement's about livin' friend
You're paid in what you feel

The ship, it may be sinkin'
But God don't cry about
We'll raise it from the ocean
Sail the world to every port
Meet change with change
Our cry of life
And action is our core
We're learnin' how to live my friend
Don't ask for anymore
Don't ask
Don't ask
Don't ask for anymore

When hunger is no problem
All have shelter overhead
When we take each other one by one
The old life will be dead
Now grow, grow
Together we will grow
Don't ask advise of me
Just ask yourself
'Cause I don't know
I said don't ask advise of me
Just ask yourself and you will
Grow

NATHAN (A childrens' song)

Nathan, Nathan
Do you know where you're goin'?
Do you know where to begin?
Nathan, Nathan
All you've got in life is livin'
There's a stop sign at the end

The road you travel
Will have signs that say, "Direction"
Somebodys' walked before
Be careful then, to read the signs
But for protection
Be sure you drive yourself
Some have been driven before
Circles, circles
You'll drive around in circles
You'll think you're losin' your head
Nathan, Nathan
Do you know where you're goin'?
Do you know where you have been?

The gravel's smooth
Because it's trod on by so many
You make your own road in your mind.
Those who travel on the smooth
Reach destinations
A rougher road if your life's
A journey through time
Journey, journey
If you drive the rough terrain
Inside
You won't be the same

Nathan, Nathan
All you've got in life is livin'
Aim for green
Green lights 'till the end.

OTHER MATTERS

It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
Alone, I can say
It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
I'm me today

Insister, what ya think goes on in my head?
It's alive, no it ain't dead
Don't have to tell me every detail anymore
Ain't my first time, I know how to sweep the floor
Why do ya scream, make us all want to hide?
Don't take me on your bully ride
What about the smile I see when a customers in front of us three?
Ain't ya got the time to make your smile and your beller rhyme?
Go on, tell me how to sweep the floor
You don't hear my song, I won't listen to yours any more

It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
Alone, I can say
It don't matter if any body ever hears my song anyway
I'm me today

Lady leave me alone, I don't want ya near
Tears of lost love water down my beer
Love and feelin' he don't understand when you're near
Don't worry, be who you are
Someone else will read your love and feelings clear

It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
Together, we can say
It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
I'm me today

Logistician, it's crowded but you're all alone
Don't feel nothin'
Your discussion's like a hungry animals' bone
Why are you starvin'?
It's all around, you don't have to be alone
Or can you read about it in your room?
And analyze it talkin' on the phone?
Go on and cry if you're feelin' that kind of song
But if you feel a happy feelin' you can sing about it
No, it ain't wrong

It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
If tommorrow, I can say
It don't matter if anybody ever hears my song anyway
I'm me today