

Tape 207A

- 1/ Conclusion of Bull Story; see tape 205, told by Mr. Wilmot Mac Donald, Glenwood, N.B.
2. Wait Lady Wait: fragment of English folk song sung by Mr. Wm. Gilkie, Sambro; for words see earlier recording by same singer; well sung here to good tune. Reel 60?
3. The Crook and Plaid; sung by Mr. Wm. Gilkie; for words see tape 60; this may have another verse where he takes his dog with him. Scotch song.
4. John the Cobbler: long European folk tale well told by Miss Manny's informant, Mr. Wilmot MacDonald, Glenwood, N.B.; young man has fortune told by witch; it comes true and he gains fortune and a wife but in the end is hanged. Motif number may be D1712, but this needs to be checked.

This story is told about a man and he had one son. Well this son grew up and he give him a pretty good education and his father was a cobbler. You know what a cobbler is? So he got the boy after he got his schooling - he went to about grade nine- so anyway he took him in his shop and he learned him to be a cobbler. Well the young fellow was a better cobbler than his father then. So anyway, he turned out to be pretty bad . He got to work drinking and playing cards and running around, so one day there was an old witch come to the house, so the old man asked the witch would he tell the boy's fortune. He said the boy wasn't very good now, which he was an awful good boy at one time , but he was pretty rough now. So she told his fortune, and she told him he was going to be in great trouble; he was going to be all in, down, and out . Then he was going to become awful rich. Oh he was going to be about the wealthiest man in the world, and then he was going to be married; married, very well off. But the last of it, after all that he had done, he was going to be hung. So the boy, he just didn't fear that. He just let that in one ear and out the other, so he just went on with his transaction, and by and by the old man, he got so bad the old man had to put him away from the place.

So he travelled and travelled on till he ~~came to another~~ town travelled into another town . So he was going by this shop and he seen this cobbling shop so he thought he'd go in. So he went in and there was a fellow there fixing some boots and stuff there, so he asked this man did he live in the town. He said yes, he lived in a little place right out about a mile, he said, "out in the country is where I live," but my shop is here in town where I get my work. " Well he said he had no job and he hadn't too much money, but he said

he'd like to hang around, "if you have anything for me to do I'd like to hang around and, "he said, "if you have anything for me to do I'd like ~~xxxxxxx~~ job, for you to get me a job. Well the old fellow said to him,

"Hang around for to-night and," he said, "you can stay with me all night. "Well that night him and the old man talked about how much business was in town and he said to the old fellow, he said,

"Why don't you hire another cobbler?" Well he said he didn't have business enough."

"Well," he said, "why not hire me? I can do a lot of that kind of work," he said, "I used to work with my father. I can do a pretty good job."

"Well," he says, "I don't think you'd be any good if you're not a cobbler. "

"Well," he says, "to-morrow morning I'm going to the shop with you and I'm going to show you what I can do, with a pair of shoes or a pair of boots, whatever it might be but," he said, "if I spoil them I'll pay for them." So he went down to the shop the next morning and they went to work, and he took this pair of shoes and he went to work and he fixed them. So he fixed them in about five minutes, and he threw them at the old fella. He says,

"How does that suit you? "

"My goodness," he said, "that's a beautiful job."

He said, "That's my trade; I'm a cobbler." Well, the old man hired him and they went to work and business started rolling in and the shoes started rolling in and Mister Man, you talk about making some money. But according as they worked along day in and day out and he got to know the old man, and the old man says,

"You know," he says, "there's a king," he says, "up here on the hill, he's got a house made out of rock," he said. "It's a cave, and in that cave," he said, "there's nothing but just barrels of money, and," he says, "there's no way of getting in to that." And the young fellow says,

"You know, if you'll come with me to-night and show me that place," he says, "I can get that money."

"Oh," the old man says, "I don't think we do." So they talked about it anyway and went on, and by and by the old man he consented that they would go anyway and have a look at it. So he took a couple of crowbars with him that night and a couple of bags to gather up the money, so anyway they went right around and they tried the first tier of rock. So just when they come back, where they started on the second tier, there was a loose rock and the young fellow he pried it out with the two crowbars and he jumped right in. So he jumped right in and he said to the old fella,

"You stay there," he says, "they don't want the two of us in there," so the young fellow jumped in and bagged up what money they wanted in his bag, and went out and they put the rock in again and took the crowbars and they went back. So anyway he says to the old fellow,

"Now you know," he says, "we've just got to keep on working till this blows over but," he says, "we didn't make no show there and," he says, "it's not likely there'll be anyone on there; they'll never know." So they was working away the next day and the young fellow says,

"You know we didn't do right last night." He says, "You know if we had a filledk those bags," he said, "we'd never have to work another day in our life."

Oh the old fella said, "Oh I think," he says, "we should be satisfied with what we got."

"No," he said, "we're going back to-night and get one more haul of money, and then we'll haul out of her after two or three months. We'll close up the old shop and haul out of her." Well, back they went.

Now the young fella knew right where to go. The king had been there, sent his men there that day and had seen the money was gone and knowed it was no use in going out looking for that, but we'll set a trap for the thief. So the young fellow was aware of this. He knew the game, and the poor old man didn't know what was going on. He thought it was all clear sailing, so the young fellow he just pried the rock right out and he said to him, he said,

"I went in last night; you go in to-night." So when the old man went in there was a barrel of thick tar which was full - a puncheon full setting at the bottom of the hole, and the poor old man jumped into that, right to the waist. Well he ^{commenced} began to scream. He said,

"Lookit, I'm caught into some thick stuff," he said! "I can't get out."

He says, "Never mind about that. Just reach around and get the gold," he says, "I'll get you out of that." So he knew it was useless. He wasn't going to get him out of that. So the old man he felt around all the barrels of money, and he gathered up and was passing out the money and the young fellow was putting it in the bags, so when he got what the young fellow could carry he just hauled this sword off his side and he took the old fellow by the hair and he clipped the head right off of the old man and put it in the bag with

the money and left the rock out and took the two crowbars and went. Well the next morning - he went home and told the old man's woman. Now he says, "I'll tell you what I have to do. Now the old man was getting old any way, "lookit, "if you don't squeal anyway on me I've got enough money," he says, "to give you," he says, "that you could step out of this town and you'll never have to want for nothing. You've got all the money you want." So she thought it over. She thought the old fella was getting old, something like Wilmoit MacDonal d. It wouldn't much force now anyway so she just let it go. So the next day he went back to the shop. He said,

"Now we've just got to keep quiet. We've just got to let on that we're just cobbling away," so he was cobbling in the shop, and the king had the only two pigs in the world at that time, and whatever he sent them for, they could find it. So they sent them out to see could they find the old fellow's head, wherever this would be buried. So this Johany he was cobbling away, and he looked out, and here the pigs is going through the orchard with the old fella's head, after they dug it up, so he grabbed the old gun and he went out and shot the two pigs and took them in and he dressed them up. So the pigs never went home and no head of the old man or nothing, so the king says,

"I'm going to get him. I'm going to get him." So there was a hundred houses in that town, so he sent two soldiers to stay at each man's house all night, and whoever had pork fried, that was the man was doing all this crooked work. So he was working away and the two soldiers come and they told their story, so he just let on he was married to the woman, Ka He said,

"You go in there and my wife will take care of you." So anyway, when he went in for his supper, here she had them set down

to a big plate of fresh pork. So he thought to himself,

" This is it. I've had it now. "But anyway , they had to stay all night, so after they got done eating, he said, "Well now me and the wife is going out to-night," he said. "I'm going to show you your room and then you can go to it when you like." So he put them in this room, and there was no window in it or anything, so when the two lads went in he turned on the light , and when he come out he just locked the door. They'll stay there for the night till he'd think up a plan what he was going to do. Well he went down anyway and he looked across the street and there was two fellas going into the next house and there's two going in there. Every man has got two soldiers for the night. So he sat down at the table and he started to write those bills out . So he wrote a hundred of those bills, and he put on those bills, "Kill those two men in the morning." So he went around, and he hung them on every man's door that night.

So the next morning Johnny's two lads didn't get up very early cause they knew they had him, so right across the street he seen the two dead soldiers coming out the door and other two dead dead soldiers, so he just went in and opened the door and he gaffled his two fellows and killed them, with the sword, and threw them out too. Well this was on every man's door, on Johnny's door and all, so he couldn't find what in earth is going on, who's doing this. All right, anyway, he says, I'll get him this time. He had a party, and the king announced this that he invited every man in town to come. Well there was a hundred men to go, and Johnny says to her, he said, "Lookit, I got to go too, for if I don't go, I'll be caught." Well he went anyway, so he thought to himself, "Well now I'll go to that party and see what's going on there. So after they had their supper the king turned them out into a great big field bed which was

about a hundred feet ,fifty by a hundred, and they was all beds on the floor, and the men all slept like feet to feet, on each side of this building.

"Now," he said to his daughter, " the only thing, I'm going to get this fellow. He might be young and he might be old and we don't know what he is, but you have to make a lot of him. You're going to go through this when they're all laying there, and you're going to have a quart of whisky with you , and you're going to have cigarettes and stuff like this on this little end table down at the end of that which you're going to set there and you're going to start to drink whisky by yourself, setting there. Now whoever's had enough for to do all this is going to have gall enough ~~xxx~~ to go right down and start to drink whisky with you, and ," he says, "you must set him drunk and get him asleep so you could put a mark on him. So I want you to put a big blue X right on his forehead."

So Johnny was laying there among the rest of them and anyway she walks in with this big ^{quart} ~~port~~ of liquor and she walks right down through the hall, and they was all laying watching her, and they was all laying there, and Johnny watched her going down, and she sat down at this table and she filled up her glass and smoked a cigarette and she started to drink. So he thought to himself,

"I can't stand this any longer. I must go down and have a drink with her anyway," so up he got and he goes down, and she insisted on him. "Sit down, sit down dear man." He said,

"Give me a drink ," he said, " the king has left me."

"Oh," she said, "the king won't be back till the morning. He don't come in here." She said, "I'm running this," and he said,

"Who are you?"

"Oh, I'm his daughter."

"Oh, um, great." So she kept lacing the liquor into him and by and by he got drunk, so he kinda leaned over on the chair and he was sleeping away and so she took this pen and she put this mark on him. Well, she picks up her bottle and she goes out .

Now he woke up some time in the morning and his coat was half tore off of him , his tie was all twisted everywhere like this so, behold ye, he thought he'd straighten around. The girl was ~~gone~~ gone and the liquor's all gone, so he got up anyway and he went over to the looking glass for to comb his hair and fix himself up, so he noticed this X on his forehead. Well, he spit on his fingers and he got rubbing this and he's going to rub this off, and the more he rubbed it the prettier it got. Well he tried to tear it out of that; no sir, she was ^{right} dyed in his forehead so the mark was on to stay.

"Well now, he said, "I've had it now because she's put a mark on me when I was drunk. I didn't know anything about this. But," he said, " the only thing to do is to look around and see ~~if~~ ~~ix~~ ~~ax~~ could I find the pencil she done it so, as luck happened, she went away, she was a little groggy herself I 'spose with the rest of the quart. When she left she left the pencil. So he picked it up and he seen it was the same . So all those other men was sleeping on the floor, me along with the rest and she (he) turned around and she (he) put a big X on every one of their foreheads was laying there. Well, he laid down again and oh, around ^{about} seven o'clock the old king come in . He told them to all stand one by one and walk out. Now she told him she put this mark on him and would get him. Well the first old man come out, he had this mark, and the next fella,

"Hold on," he said. So he said to his daughter, "Mary," he said, " did you set all these men drunk?" She said no. "Well, they all

got this mark, and they didn't know Johnny from the rest of them. Well they all went in and they set down to the table and they had their breakfast, and when they was eating their breakfast, just when they set down, eating away, the old king stood up by the table.

"Now boys," he said, "I'm going to tell you something you've done. This is the smartest man in the world doing these tricks and," he says, "if he'll stand up as a man and say it was him," he said, "there'll be nothing harmax him. You can have that daughter of mine for a wife. I'll build you a castle to stay in," he said, "that you'll never have to work another day in your life!" So Johnny he stands up.

"Here I am."

"Well," he says, "if it's you come up here! Well we had a big wedding that day anyway, and Johnny got married. So about a year after, he'd built this nice castle for him, and he was setting around, nothing to do, so he was setting this day with his head down. So his wife come in and asked him what was the matter. He said,

"Lookit, five years ago I had my fortune told by a witch, and," he said, "everything that she told me, which I didn't believe, come true right till to-day, and the last thing she told me I was ~~go~~ going to be hung."

"Well," she said, "that could never happen now. You ain't got to work; you ain't got to do nothing, just stay here with me."

"Well," he said, "it's been bothering me this last two weeks and I can't get rid of it."

"Well now," she says, "I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to go out in the back shop and," she said, "you'll get a chair and I'll put a rope up on a beam in the back shed, in the woodshed, and I'll make a knot, a hangman's knot, and I'll put your head in the loop, and then I'll take it out, and maybe you'll forget

all about it."

"Well maybe," he said, "that will be all right." He'd try it anyway." Well she took him out there and she got him up on an old rickety bench of some kind and she put his head in, and just by that the doorbell rung. Well when she came out for me I had some milk for her, some groceries. ^{How} ~~Wait~~ anyway I give her this and the first thing we heard this awful crash. Well she run in ~~there~~ anyway and he got around there, which he had his hands tied behind his back, just made out that she was going to hang him, and when we went in, here his neck was broke and he was hung.

So I hung around there for a while and it got to be spooky for me. I just had to haul out of her then and come home.

Told by Mr. Wilmot MacDonald's, Miss Manny's informant,
Glenwood, N.B., and recorded by Helen Creighton, Sept. 1960.