

The Big Rock Candy Mountain

(Bowdlerized version)

Words & Music:
Harry "Haywire Mac" McClintock(?)

I don't know who wrote this bowdlerized version, but it is an interesting one. Thanks to correspondent Tom Loomis for the chords to this version. He highly recommends doing the long glissando from low E to C# that Burl Ives used on the work "buzzin'" in the chorus.

A D A D A Bm A
A E7 A
On a summer day in the month of May a burly bum came hiking.

A D A D A Bm A
A E7 A
Down a shady lane through the sugar cane he was looking for his liking.

Bm A Bm A
E A E A
As he roamed along, he sang a song of a land of milk and honey.

A D A D A Bm A
A E A
Where a bum can stay for many a day and he won't need any money.

CHORUS:

A D A
E7 A D A
Oh, the buzzin' of the bees in the cigarette trees near the sody water fountain!

D A E7 A
E7 A E A
And the lemonade springs where the bluebird sings on the Big Rock Candy Mountain.

At that Big Rock Candy Mountain the cops have wooden legs!
The bulldogs all have rubber teeth and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs!
The farmers' trees are full o' fruit, their barns are full of hay.
I want t' go, where there ain't no snow,
Where the rain don't fall & the wind don't blow to that Big Rock Candy Mountain.

CHORUS:

There's a lake of gin we can both jump in and the handouts grow on bushes.
In the new-mown hay we can sleep all day and the bars all have free lunches.
Where the mail train stops and there ain't no cops and the folks are tender-hearted.
Where you never change your socks & you never throw rocks & your hair is never parted.

CHORUS:

Oh, a farmer and his son, they were on the run to the hay field they were bounding
Said the bum to the son, "Why don't you come to that big rock candy mountain?"
So the very next day they hiked away, the mileposts they were counting.
But they never arrived at the lemonade tide and the Big Rock Candy Mountain.

CHORUS: