# **Ukulele-Joe** Tom Lehrer Collection

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These are my versions of some the songs of Tom Lehrer.

Fret diagrams for GCEA tuned Ukuleles are provided for all songs.

joe@ukulele-joe.co.uk

# A Christmas Carol

[F] Christmas time is here by [D7] golly,

[G7] Dis-approval [C7] would be folly,

[F] Deck the [F7] halls with [Bb] hunks of holly,

[F] Fill the cups and [G7] don't say [C7] when.

[F] Kill the Turkeys ducks and [D7] chickens,

[G7] Mix punch the drag [C7] out the Dickens,

[F] Even [F7] though the [Bb] prospect sickens,

[F] Brother [Gm] here we [C7] go a- [F] -gain.

On Christmas [F7] Day you [Bb] can't get sore,

Your fellow man you [F] must adore,

There's [Dm] time to rob him [F] all the [G7] more,

The [C7] other three [G7] hundred and [C7] sixty-four.

Re- [F] -lations sparing no ex- [D7] -pence,

Will [G7] sent some useless [C7] old utensil,

[F] Or a [F7] matching [Bb] pen and pencil,

[F] Just the thing I [G7] need, - How [C7] Nice!)

It [F] doesn't matter how sin- [D7] -cere it [G7] is,

Nor how heart- [C7] -felt the spirit,

[F] Sent- [F7] -ment will [Bb] not endear it,

[F] what's impor- [Gm] -tant [C7] is the [F] price,

Hark the [C] Herald [F] Tribune [C] sings,

[F] Advert- [Gm] -ising [F] won- [C] -drous [F] things,

God [Dm] Rest Ye [A] Merry [Dm] Merchants

May [F] you [Bb] make the Yuletide [A] pay,

[F] Angels we have [C7] heard on [F] high,

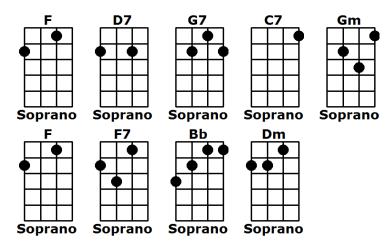
[F] Tell [C] us [F] to go out [C] and [F] buy!

[C7] So [F] let the raucous sleigh bells [D7] jingle,

[G7] Hail our dear old [C] friend Kris Kringle,

[F] Driving his [C] reindeer a [D7] cross the [Gm] sky.

[D7] Don't [Gm] stand underneath when [C] they [C7] fly [F] by. [C]/// [F]



Be [C] Prepared, that's the boy scout's marching song,

Be [G7] Prepared, as through life you march along,

Be Pre-[C]-pared to hold your [E7] liquor pretty [A7] well,

Don't write [D7] naughty words on walls if you can't [G] spell. [G7]

Be [C] prepared to hide that pack of cigarettes,

Don't make [G7] book, if you cannot cover bets.

Keep those [C] reefers hidden [C7] where you're sure that [F] they will not be found And be [D] careful not to [D7] smoke them when the [G] scout masters a round.

For he [C] only will in-[F]-sist that they be [G7] shared,

Be Pre [C] pared.

Be [C] Prepared, that's the boy scout's solemn creed.

Be [G7] Prepared, and be clean in word and deed,

Don't sol-[C]-icit for your [E7] sister, that's not [A7] nice,

Unless you [D7] get a good percentage of her [G] price. [G7]

Be [C] prepared, and be careful not to do,

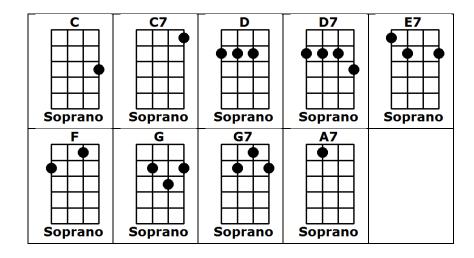
Your good [G7] deeds, when there's no one watching you.

If you're [C] looking for ad-[C7]-venture of a [F] new and different kind,

And you [D] come across a [D7] Girl Scout who is [G] similarly inclined,

Don't be [C] nervous, don't be [F] flustered, don't be [G7] scared. -

Be [C] Prepared.



# The Hunting Song

Tom Lehrer (Original in the 1952 Tom Lehrer Song Book")

4 / 4 Time. Intro [F] [C7] [F]

I [F] always will remember,

'twas a [C7] year ago November,

I went [F] out to hunt some [D7] deer,

on a [G7] morning bright and [C] clear.

I [F] went and shot the [F7\*] maximum

the [Bb] game laws would [Bbm] allow,

Two game [F] wardens, seven [C7] hunters and a [F] cow,

I [F] was in no mood to trifle,
I took [C7] down my trusty rifle,
And went [F] out to stalk my [D7] prey,
what a [G7] haul I made that [C] day,
I [F] tied them to my [F7] fender
and I [Bb] drove them home some [Bbm] how,
Two game [F] wardens, seven [C7] hunters and a [F] cow,

Bridge [E7] The [Am] law was very firm, it,

[E7] took away my permit,

The [Am] worst punish-[G]-ment

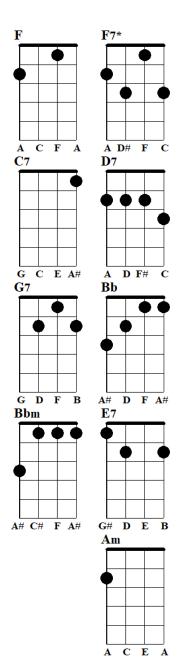
I [F] ever en-[E7]-dured,

It turned [Am] out they had a reason,

[E7] Cows were out of season

And [Am] one of the hunters wasn't [C7] insured.

People [F] ask me how I do it, and I [C7] say there's nothing to it, You just [F] stand there looking [D7] cute and when [G7] something moves, you [C7] shoot, So there's [F] ten stuffed [F7] heads in my [Bb] trophy room right [Bbm] now, Two game [F] wardens, seven [C7] hunters and a [F] Pure [F7] bred [Bb] Guern-[Bbm]-sey [F] cow[C]! [C]! [F]!.



Tom Lehrer (1952)

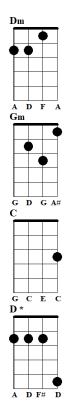
#### 6/8 Time Intro:

[Dm] About a maid I'll sing a song,
Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tickety-[Dm]-tin,
A [Gm] bout a maid I'll [Dm] sing a song,
Who didn't [C] have her [Dm] family long,
Not only [Gm] did she [Dm] do them [Gm] wrong,
She [Dm] did every [C] one of them [Dm] in, them[C] in,
She [Dm] did every [C] one of them [Dm] in.

[Dm] One morning in a fit of pique,
Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin,
One [Gm] morning in a [Dm] fit of pique,
She drowned her [C] father [Dm] in the creek,
The water [Gm] tasted [Dm] bad for a [Gm] week,
So we [Dm] had to make[C] do with [Dm] gin, with [C] gin,
We [Dm] had to make [C] do with [Dm] gin.

[Dm] Her mother she could never stand,
Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin,
Her [Gm] mother she could [Dm] never stand,
And so a [C] cyanide [Dm] soup she planned,
Her mother [Gm] died with the [Dm] spoon in her [Gm] hand,
And her [Dm] face in a [C] hideous [Dm] grin,
A [C] grin, her [Dm] face in a [C] hideous [Dm] grin,

[Dm] She set her sister's hair on fire,
Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin,
She [Gm] set her sister's [Dm] hair on fire,
And as the[C] smoke and [Gm] flame rose higher,
She [Dm] danced [C] around the [Dm] funeral [Gm] pyre,
[Dm] Playing a [C] vio-[Dm]-lin, [C]-o-lin,[Dm]
Playing a [C] vio-[Dm]-lin.`



[Dm] She weighted her brother down with stones, Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin, She [Gm] weighted her brother [Dm] down with stones, And [C] sent him off to [Dm] Davy Jones, All they [C] ever [Dm] found were some [Gm] bones, And [Dm] occasional [C] pieces of [Dm] skin, Of [C] skin, Oc-[Dm]-casional [C] pieces of [Dm] skin.

[Dm] One day when she had nothing to do, Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin, One [Gm] day when she had [Dm] nothing to do, She cut her [C] baby [Dm] brother in two, Then [Dm] served him [C] up as an [Dm] Irish [Gm] stew. And [Dm] invited the [C] neighbours [Dm] in, 'bours [C] in, In-[Dm]-vited the[C] neighbours [Dm] in.

[Dm] And when at last the police came by, Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin, And [Gm] when at last the [Dm] police came by, Her little [C] pranks she did [Dm] not deny, To [Dm] do so [C] she would have [Dm] had to [Gm] lie, And [Dm] lying she [C] knew was a sin [Dm] - a [C] sin, And [Dm] lying she [C] knew was a [Dm] sin.

[Dm] My tragic tale I will not prolong,
Sing rick-e-ty-[Gm]-tick-e-ty-[Dm]-tin,
My [Gm] tragic tale I [Dm] won't prolong,
But [C] if you do not [Dm] enjoy my song,
You've yourselves to [C] blame if [Dm] it's too [Gm] long, You should
[Dm] never have [C] let me be-[Dm]-gin, be-[C]-gin.

Outro: Slowing.

You should [Dm] never have [C] let me be-[Dm]-gin. [C]! pause [D\*]!

A D F A
Gm
G D G A#
C
G C E C
D\*

### The Masochism Tango

Tom Lehrer (1958)

On "An Evening Wasted with Tom Lehrer" Album.

4 / 4 Tango Style.

I [Dm] ache for the touch of your [Gm] lips, dear, But much [C7] more for the touch of your [F] whips, dear, [A7] You can raise welts like [Dm] nobody else, As we [A7] dance to the masochism [Dm] tango.

Let our [Dm] love be a flame, not an [Gm] ember, Say it's [C7] me that you want to dis-[F]-member, [A7] Blacken my eye, set [Dm] fire to my [Gm] tie, As we [A7] dance to the masochism [Dm] tango.

At your com-[Gm]-mand be- [C7]-fore you here I [F] stand,
My [Dm] heart is in my [Gm] hand, - YUK!! - It's here that I must [D] be. [D7]
My heart [Gm] entreats, just [C7] hear those savage [F] beats,
And [Dm] go put on your [Gm] cleats and [C7] come and trample [F] me. [A7]

Your [Dm] heart is hard as stone or ma-[Gm]-hogany, That's why [C7] I'm in such exquisite [F] agony.

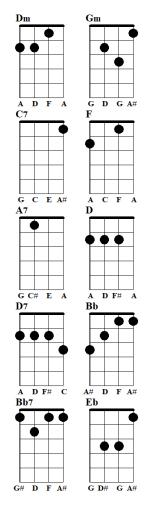
My [A7] soul is on fire, it's a-[Dm]-flame with de-[Gm]-sire, Which is [A7] why I perspire when we [Dm] tango.

[Dm] You caught my [Bb] nose [Bb7], In your left casta-[Eb]-net, love, I can feel the pain [A7] yet love, ev'ry time I hear [Dm] drums. And I envy the [Bb] rose, [Bb7] That you held in your [Eb] teeth, love, With the thorns under-[A7]-neath love, sticking into your [Dm] gums. [A7]

Your [Dm] eyes cast a spell that be-[Gm]-witches, The [C7] last time I needed twenty [F] stitches. To [A7] sew up the gash you [Dm] made with your [Gm] lash, As we [A7] danced to the Masochism [Dm] Tango.

Bash in my [Gm] brain and [A7] make me scream with [F] pain,
Then [Dm] kick me once a-[Gm]-gain and say we'll never [D] part. [D7]
I know too [Gm] well I'm un-[C7]-derneath your [F] spell,
So, [Dm] darling, if you [Gm] smell something [C7] burning,
It's my [F] heart. Hic, Excuse Me!! [A7]

Take [Dm] your cigarette from its [Gm] holder, And [C7] burn your initials in my [F] shoulder' [A7] Fracture my spine, and [Dm] swear that you're [Gm] mine, As we [A7] danced to the Masochism [Dm] Tango.



# When You are Old And Grey

Tom Lehrer (1952)

The Tom Lehrer Songbook (1952)

3 / 4 time. Intro: [G] [A7\*] [D7] [G]

Since I **[G]** still appreciate you, let's **[E7]** find love while we **[Am]** may, Because I know I'll **[D7]** hate you, When you are old and **[G]** grey.

So say you love me here and now,
I'll [E7] make the most of [Am] that.
Say you love and trust me,
For I [G] know you'll dis-[E7]-gust me,
When you're [A7\*] old and [D7] getting [G] fat.

Bridge An [G] awful debility, A [C] lessened utility,

A [D7] loss of mobility, is a [G] strong possibility.

In all probability, I'll [D7] lose my virility,

And [Em] you your fertility, and [A7\*] desira-[D7]-bility,

And [G] this liability of [C] total sterility.

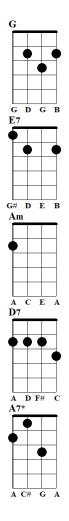
Will [D7] lead to hostility and a [G] sense of futility.

So let's act with agility while we [D7] still have facility,

For we'll [Em] soon reach senility and [A7\*] lose the a- [D7] -bility.

Your [G] teeth will start to go dear, Your [E7] waist will start to [Am] spread, In twenty years or [D7] so dear I'll wish that you were [G] dead.

I'll never love you then at all
The [E7] way I do [Am] today,
So please remember,
When I [G] leave in De-[E7]-cember, I [A7\*] told you [D7] so in [G] May.
Outro: Slowing
Yes, I [A7\*] told you [D7] so in [G] May.



# I Wanna Go Back To Dixie.

Tom Lehrer (1953)

Recorded by Tom Lehrer.

I [G] wanna go back to [G7] Dixie, Take me [C] back to dear old Dixie, That's the [G] only little old [E7] place for little old [A7] me. [D7] Old times [G] there are not for-[G7]-gotten, Whupping [C] slaves and selling cotton.

And [G] waiting for the [A7] Robert-E-Lee [D7]. (It was never there on time)

I'll [G] go back to the [G7] Swanee, Where Pel-[G]-agra makes you [G7] scrawny, And the [C] honeysuckle clutters up the [G] vine. [D7]
I [G] really am a [D7] fixing, to go [G] home and start a-[E7]-mixing,
Down be-[A7]-low that Mason [D7] Dixon [G] line. [D7]

<u>Spoken:</u> I [G] wanna go [G7] back to [C] Allabam-[Cm]-my, Back [G] to the arms [G7] of my [C] dear old [Cm] mammy, Her [G] cooking's [G7] lousy and her [C] hands are clam-[Cm]-my, But [G] what the [D7] hell, It's [G] home.

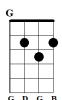
Yes for [D7] paradise the [Gdim7] southland is my [D7] nominee, Just give me a ham hock [Gdim7] and a grit of [D7] Hominy.

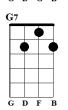
I [G] wanna go back to [G7] Dixie, I wanna [C] be a Dixie Pixie, And eat [G] cornpone 'tll it's [E7] coming out of my [A7] ears, [D7] I wanna [G] talk with southern [G7] gentlemen, and [C] put my white sheet on again, I [G] ain't seen one good [A7] lynching in [D7] years.

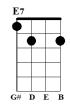
The [G] land of the Boll [G7] Weevil, Where the [G] laws are medi-[G7]-eval, Is [C] calling me to [Cm] come and never more [G] roam, [D7] I wanna [G] go back to the [D7] southland, that y'-[G]-all and shut yer [D7] mouth land.

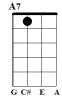
Be it [G] ev-[C]-er so [G] deca-[E7]-dent,

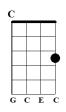
There's [A7] no [D7] place like [G] home. [D7] [G]

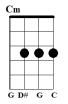


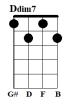












Tom Lehrer 1965

4 / 4 Time Calypso Style. [C] [G7] [C] [G7]

[C] If you visit Amer-[G7]-ican city,

you will find it [C] very pretty.

[C7] Just two things of which you [F] must beware,

[G] Don't drink the water and don't [G7] breathe the [C] air.

Pol-[Am]-lution, Pol-[G]-lution, they got [F] smog and sewage and [E7] mud,

[F] Turn on your [C] tap and get [G7] hot and cold running [C] crud. [G7]

[C] See the halibuts [G7] and the sturgeon,

being wiped out [C] by detergeons.

Fish gotta [Am] swim and [Dm] birds gotta [G7] fly,

But [C] they don't last long [G7] if they [C] try.

Pol-[Am]-lution, Pol-[G]-lution, you can [F] use the latest tooth [E7] paste,

And [F] then rise out your [C] mouth with in-[G7]-dustrial [C] waste. [G7]

[C] Just go out for a [G7] breath of air,

and you'll be ready for [C] Medicare.

The [C7] city streets are really [F] quite a thrill,

If the [C] hoods don't get you the mon-[G7]-oxide [C] will.

Pol-[Am]-lution, Pol-[G]-lution, wear a [F] gas mask and a [E7]-veil.

[F] Then you can [C] breathe, long as [G7] you don't in-[C]-hale. [G7]

[C] Lots of things there that [G7] you can drink,

but stay away from the [C] kitchen sink.

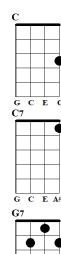
Throw [C7] out your breakfast garbage, and I've [F] got a hunch,

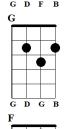
That the [G] folks down-stream will [G7] drink it for [C] lunch.

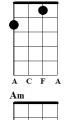
So [Am] go to the [G] city see the [F] crazy people [E7] there.

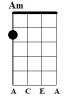
Like [F] lambs to the [C] slaughter, they're [F] drinking the [C] water,

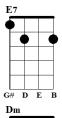
and [Dm] breath-[G7]-ing (Cough) the [C] air. [G]! [G]! [C]!











### I Hold Your Hand In Mine.

Tom Lehrer (1953)

Recorded by Tom Lehrer.

Intro: [E7] [A7] [D7] [G]

I [D7] hold your hand in [G] mine, [G] dear,

I [D7] press it to my [G] lips. [G]

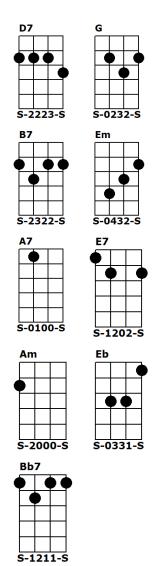
I [B7] take a healthy [Em] bite,

[Em] From your [A7] dainty finger [D7] tips. [D7]

My [D7] joy would be com-[G]-plete [G] dear, If [D7] you were only [G] he-[E7]-re. But [Am] still I keep your [G] hand, [E7] As a [Am] precious [D7] souve-[G]-nir.[G]

The [Eb] night you died I [Bb7] cut it off, I [F7] really don't know [Bb] why. [Bb7] For [Eb] now each time I [Bb] kiss it, [Bb] I get [A7] blood-stains on my [D7] tie. [D7]

I'm [D7] sorry now I killed [G] you, For our [D7] love was something [G] fine, [G7] And [C] 'till they come to [G] get me, [E7] I shall [A7] hold your [D7] hand in [G] mine. [C] [G]  $\downarrow$ 



# The Weiner Schnitzel Waltz

Tom Lehrer (1953)

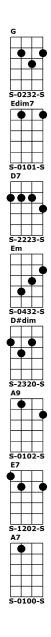
Recorded by Tom Lehrer 1953

#### 3 / 4 Time. Intro: [G] [G] [G] /

Do you re-[G] member the night I held you so tight, As we danced to the **[Edim7]** Weiner Schnitzel **[D7]** Waltz. The [G] music was gay, and the [D7] setting was Viennese, Your [Em] hair wore some roses (or per-[D#dim]-haps they were Peonies). I was [Em] blind to your obvious [A9] faults, As we [G] danced 'cross the scene, To the [D7] strains of the Weiner Schnitzel [G] Waltz. [G] [D7]/

Oh, I [G] drank some champagne from your [D7] shoe, (Tra-la-la), I was drunk by the time I got [G] through. (Tra-la-la), For [D7] I didn't know as I [G] raised up that [E7] cup, It had [A7] taken two bottles to [D7] fill the thing up. It was [G] I who trod on your [D7] dress, (Tra-la-la), The skirts all came off I con-[G]-fess. (Tra-la-la), Re-[D7]-vealing for all of the [G] others to [E7] see, [A7] Just what it was that en-[D7]-deared you to me,

Oh, I re-[G]-member the night I held you so tight, As we danced to the **[Edim7]** Weiner Schnitzel **[D7]** Waltz. Your [G] lips were like wine (if you'll [D7] pardon the simile), The [Em] music was lovely and [D#dim] quite Rudolph Frimly. I drank [Em] wine, you drank chocolate [A7] malts, And we [G] both turned quite green, To the [D7] strains of the Weiner Schnitzel [G] Waltz. [C] [G] $\downarrow$ 



# My Home Town

Tom Lehrer 1853

Recorded by Tom Lehrer 1954

Intro: [C]/ [D7] [G7] [C]

[C] I really have a [Am] yen, to [Dm] go back once a-[G7]-gain, Back [C] to the place where [Am] no-one wears a [Dm] frown [G7] To see once [F] more those super [B7] special just plain [C] folks, In [D7] my [G7] home [C] town.

No [C] fellow could ig-[Am]-nore, that [Dm] little girl next [G7] door, She [C] sure looked sweet in [Am] her first evening [Dm] gown.
[G7] Now there's a [F] charge for what she [B7] used to give for [C] free, In [D7] my [G7] home [C] town.

I re-[C7]-member [F7] Dan, the druggist on the corner, He was [C7] never mean or ornery, he was [C] swell. He killed his [F7] mother-in-law and ground her up real [Am] well, And [C] sprinkled just a [A7] bit, over [D7] each banana [G7] split.

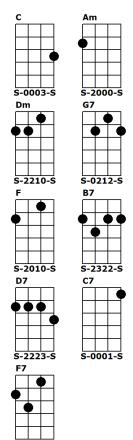
The [C] guy that taught us [Am] math, who [Dm] never took a [G7] bath, Ac-[C]-quired a certain [Am] measure of re-[Dm]-nown.
[G7] And after [F] school he sold the [B7] most amazing [C] pictures, In [D7] my [G7] home [C] town.

That [C] fellow was no [Am] fool, who [Dm] taught us Sunday [G7] School. And [C] neither was our [Am] kindly Parson [Dm] Brown.

[G7] This line has [F] been omitted to avoid [B7] giving [C] offence
In [D7] my [G7] home [C] town.

[C] I re-[C7]-member [F7] Sam, he was the village idiot,
And [C7] though it seems a pity it was [C] so.
He loved to [F7] burn down houses just to watch the [Am] glow.
And [C] nothing could be [A7] done, because he [D7] was the Mayor's [G7] son.

The [C] guy that took a [Am] knife, and [Dm7] monogrammed his [G7] wife Then [C] dropped her in the [Am] pond and watched her [Dm7] drown [G7] Oh, yes, in-[F]-deed, the people [B7] there are just plain [C] folks In [D7] my [G7] home [C] town.[G]! [C]!



# The Wild West is Where I Wanna' Be.

Tom Lehrer 1953

Recorded by Tom Lehrer 1954

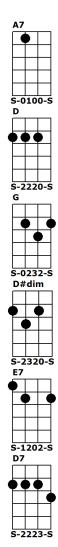
Intro: [A7] [A7] [D] Start Note A0

[Tacet] A-long the [D] trail you'll find me lopin',
Where the [G] spaces are wide [D] open,
In the land of the [D#dim] old A. E, [E7] C, [A7]
Where the [D] scenery 's attractive,
[D7] And the [G] air is radio-[E7] active,
Oh The [A7] wild west is where I wanna' [D] be. [A7]

[A7] 'Mid the [D] sagebrush and the cactus,
I'll [G] watch the fellows [D] practice,
Droppin' bombs through the [D#dim] clean desert [E7] breeze, [A7]
I'll have [D] on my sombrero,
[D7] And of [G] course I'll wear a [E7] pair o'Levi's
[A7] Over my lead B. V. [D]// D'-[G]//-s. [D]

[D7] I will [G] leave the city's rush. Leave the [D] fancy and the plush, Leave the [Em] snow and leave the [A7] slush, And the [D] crow-[D7]-ds. I will [G] seek the deserts hush. Where the [D] scene-r -y is lush. How I [E7] long to see the mushroom [A7] clouds.

Mid the [D] yuccas and the thistles,
I'll [G] watch the guided [D] missiles,
While the old F. B. [D#dim] I, watches [E7] me. [A7]
Yes I'll [D] soon make my appearance
[D7] (soon as [G] I can get my [E7] clearance)
'Cause the [A7] wild west is where I want to [D] be. [G] [D]!



### The Old Dope Pedlar.

Tom Lehrer 1953

When the [C] shades of [C7] night are [A] falling, Comes a [Dm] fellow [G7] everyone [C] knows, It's the [C] old [C7] dope [Dm] pedlar, Spreading [C] joy where-[G7]-ever he [C] goes.

Every [C] evening [C7] you will [A] find him, A-[Dm]-round our [G7] neighbour-[C]-hood, It's the [C] old [C7] dope [Dm] pedlar doing [C] well by [G7] doing [C] good.

He [F] gives the kids free [Em] samples, be-[Dm]-cause he knows full [C] well, That to [Dm]-day's young [G7] innocent [C] faces will be to-[D7] morrows clien-[G7]-tele.

Here's an [C] end to [C7] all your [A] troubles, Here's an [Dm] end to [G7] all dis-[C]-tress, It's the [C] old [C7] dope [Dm] pedlar, With his [C] powdered [G7] happi-[C]-ness.

**Outro: Slowing** 

YES It's the [C] old [C7] dope [Dm] pedlar, With his [C] powdered [G7] happi-[C]ness. [G7]! [G7]! [C]!

