



Bob Dylan



A TREE WITH ROOTS

THE GENUINE BASEMENT TAPE REMASTERS

ROLLING STONE

A SPECIAL REPORT

LOS ANGELES SOUNDS



The Missing Bob Dylan Album

Two months before he went to Nashville to record *John Wesley Harding*, Bob Dylan spent some time in the basement of his upstate New York home. There he made a rough but very listenable tape with thirteen songs.

There is enough material — most all of it very good — to make an entirely new Bob Dylan record, a record with a distinct style of its own. Although it is highly unlikely that Dylan would want to go into the studio to record material that is now seven or eight months old, nonetheless these tapes could easily be re-mastered and made into a record. The concept of a cohesive record is already present.

Whatever the original intention of the session, what happened was that Dylan and his band made a demo, a collection of songs vaguely arranged and filled with instrumentals, for other artists to audition to see if they would like to record any of the material. One of the songs on the tape — "Quinn the Eskimo" or "The Mighty Quinn" — reached the top position on radio surveys in a version by the English group Manfred Mann. Another of them, and one of the best — "This Wheel's On Fire" — has just been released in England in a version by British vocalist Julie Driscoll and organist Brian Auger. Their version is supposed to be quite good and will probably be released shortly in the United States.

The group backing Dylan on this tape is called the Crackers. Formerly they were the Hawks. The band, which lives with Dylan at his home, consists of Levon Helm on drums, Rick Danko on bass and Robbie Robertson on guitar. They accompanied him at Carnegie Hall for the recent Woody Guthrie Memorial program. Robbie Robertson has been working with Dylan for the past three years.

The instrumentation is closest to *Blonde on Blonde*, including an organ, an electric bass, drums and two guitars, acoustic and electric. The singing is more closely related to *John Wesley Harding*, however. The

DYLAN'S BASEMENT TAPE SHOULD BE RELEASED

BY JANN WENNER

style is typically Dylan: humorous rock-and-roll with repetitious patterns. One of the things peculiar to this tape is that Dylan is working with a group; there is more interaction between him and the instrumentalists than can be seen in any of his other efforts, plus there is vocal backup in the chorus from his band. The quality of the recording is fairly poor, it was a one-track, one-take job with all the instruments recorded together. The highs and lows are musing, but Dylan's voice is clear and beautiful. Additionally the tape has probably gone through several dozen dubs, each one losing a little more quality.

Here is a summary of some of the songs:

Million Dollar Bash: In the background of all Dylan's material is the style of rock and roll, and in this song is the sing-songy tune and the "oo-baby, oooh-wee, oo-baby oooh-wee" chorus. The song is just a funny one about people who run around like chickens with their heads cut off ("I get up in the morning, but it's too early to wake") trying to get someplace or other, including a good party, like the Million Dollar Bash where everybody ends up anyway.

Yea Heeny and a Bottle of Bread: This will probably not be recorded by anyone, because it isn't terribly good. The imagery is *Highway 61*, the melody non-existent. ("The comic book and me caught the bus, then the chaffeur she was back in bed.")

Please Mrs. Henry starts out like a Johnny Cash song, a tale about a poor cat without a dime and with too much to drink. ("I'm a sweet bourbon daddy and tonight I am blue.") It is indicative of where Dylan was headed because it's about a man who's hit some hard times and needs a little help. The song is a sort of swaying "Rainy Day Women" number, but without all the laughing and whoops.

Down In The Flood: Flatt & Scruggs did this song. In Dylan's version the organist makes a lot of danc-

ing figures around Dylan's vocal. It has the potential of being a great swinging rock and roll song, capable of sustaining a lot of tension between the rhythm and the vocal. The potential for a rock and roll treatment is not at all coincidental, as the theme is very much reminiscent of "Like a Rolling Stone" and "Positively Fourth Street," in that the subject is about a chick ("Mama") who let the singer down and will have to "find another best friend now." The statement and drama is not as harsh as those previous songs, in fact much milder in style, words and situation, but it is the familiar set-up.

Tiny Montgomery: The lyric strategy here is rather diffuse, about telling everybody in "old Frisco" that "Tiny Montgomery says 'Hello.'" "Everybody" is a collection of rather moderate freaks and non-descripts, and one can't help thinking that Dylan is taking cognizance of some of the more publicized aspects of San Francisco. The organ in this song does several hard-to-hear electronic bits and the vocal is backed a continual high-pitched chorus.

This Wheel's On Fire: A little Del Shannon piano in the beginning tips off the most dramatic and moving vocal by Dylan in this collection. The drums become clear for the first time on this song. It is a great number, possibly the very best by this group.

"This wheel's on fire/Rolling down the road./ Just notify my next of kin/This wheel shall explode."

The song is a very passionate love story ("You know we shall meet again if your memory serves you well") about a woman who must inevitably return bound by a fate, to the man she has neglected but who has done everything he possibly can for her.

The style here is close to *J. W. Harding*, the aching and yearning is soul wrenchingly intense.

Ain't Goin' Nowhere: "Get your mind off wintertime." This song like many of the others and much of *John Wesley Harding* could be characterized as part of Dylan's continuing ad-

vice to calm down, smile on your brother, let's get together.

I Shall Be Released: Curiously enough the music in this song and the high pleading sound of Dylan's voice reminds one of the Bee Gees. It is one of the few songs on the tape with an instrumental break. "They say every man needs protection/They say every man must fall/ Yet I swear I see my reflection/ Somewhere so high above this wall." **Tears of Rage:** This is a very sad and a very confusing song. I'm sure you will understand it when it is recorded and released by some artist. "Why must I always be the one."

Quinn the Eskimo is familiar to most in the version by Manfred Mann. Dylan does the song slower, does use flutes, but doesn't make the great differentiation between the verse and the chorus. "Mighty Quinn" is the most obvious of these songs to give a full-blown rock and roll treatment.

Open the Door Richard: Take care of all of your memories/For you can not relive them/And remember when you're out there/ You must always first forgive them." This is a light, swinging song.

Nothing Is True: If this doesn't prove Dylan's sense of humor, little will. This sounds like 1955 vintage rock and roll; the piano tripe (Dylan himself playing, I'm sure) are a direct cop from Fats Domino's "Blueberry Hill." Dylan is one of the few rock and roll artists who use both a piano and an organ.

The last song gives interesting insight into the nature of this unreleased Dylan material. Even though he used one of the finest rock and roll bands ever assembled on the *Highway 61* album, here he works with his own band, for the first time. Dylan brings that instinctual feel for rock and roll to his voice for the first time. If this were ever to be released, it would be a classic.



The following source tapes have been drawn upon, in varying degrees, to arrive at this set:

1. A Ten-Song Demo: Million Dollar Bash 2. Yea! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread 2. Please Mrs Henry. Crash on the Levee 2. Lo and Behold! 2. Tiny Montgomery. This Wheel's on Fire. You Ain't Going Nowhere 2. I Shall Be Released. Too Much of Nothing 2.

Note: This demo tape was copyrighted in October 1967, and was utilised as a source for all subsequent acetates/Dwarf Music demo tapes that circulated in the ensuing years. Unfortunately, all songs were folded into mono from their original panned stereo.

2. A Five-Song Demo: Tears of Rage 3. Quinn the Eskimo 2. Open the Door Homer 3. Nothing Was Delivered 1. Get Your Rocks Off.

Note: This demo tape was copyrighted in January 1968. The first four songs, along with the previ-

ous demo-tape, comprised a 14-song acetate from which many bootlegs were drawn. Again all songs were folded into mono from their original panned stereo.

3. The 'Basement' Safety: Million Dollar Bash 2. Yea! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread 2. I'm Not There (1956). Please Mrs Henry. Crash on the Levee 2. Lo and Behold! 2. This Wheel's On Fire. You Ain't Going Nowhere 2. I Shall Be Released. Too Much of Nothing 2. Nothing Was Delivered 3. Odds and Ends 2. Get Your Rocks Off. Clothesline Saga. Apple Suckling Tree 1. Apple Suckling Tree 2. Open The Door Homer 1*. Open The Door Homer 2*. Open The Door Homer 3*. Nothing Was Delivered 1*. Nothing Was Delivered 2*. Tears of Rage 1*. Tears of Rage 2*. Quinn the Eskimo 1*. Quinn the Eskimo 2*.

Note: This 15 i.p.s. transfer from the original tapes (save for the asterisked songs, which appear to be from a generational copy) was made at some point in 1968. All songs are in their original stereo. However, there are at least two strange omissions, 'Tiny Montgomery', already an acetate song, and 'Sign on the Cross'. The tape boxes are reproduced in Clinton Heylin's: The Recording Sessions 1960-1994.

4. A Dwarf Music Demo-Tape: Sign' on the Cross. Don't Ya Tell Henry.

Note: Two songs copyrighted in 1970. The demo-tape, though generational, is stereo.

5. The Robertson-Fraboni Compilation Reels: Odds and Ends 1. Nothing Was Delivered 3. Odds and Ends 2. Get Your Rocks Off. Clothesline Saga. Apple Suckling Tree 1. Apple Suckling Tree 2. Try Me Little Girl. Young But Daily Growin'. Tiny Montgomery. Don't Ya Tell Henry. Bourbon Street. Million Dollar Bash 1. Yea! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread 1. Million Dollar Bash 2. Yea! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread 2. I'm Not There (1956). Please Mrs. Henry. Crash on the Levee 1. Crash on the Levee 2. Lo and Behold 1. Lo and Behold 2. One Single River. Baby Ain't That Fine. You Ain't Going Nowhere 1. This Wheel's On Fire. You Ain't Going Nowhere 2. I Shall Be Released. Too Much of Nothing 1. Too Much of Nothing 2. Tears of Rage 3. Quinn the Eskimo 1. Open the Door Homer 3. Nothing Was Delivered 1. Folsom Prison Blues. Sign on the Cross. Santa Fe. Silent Weekend. Silhouette. Bring It On Home. King of France. Going to Acapulco. Gonna Get You Now. Banks of the Royal Canal.

Note: Compiled in preparation for the official 1975 double-set on Columbia, these reels presumably represent the songs short-listed. Though songs had been panned in, not all songs were the full-on mono of the official set. Though a version of this tape was drawn upon for the 5-CD set, it was a poor generational dub, now superseded by a significantly superior version.



6. The Band Roadie Reels: Lock Your Door. Baby Won't You Be My Baby. Try Me Little Girl. I Can't Make It Alone. Young But Daily Growin'. Bonnie Ship the Diamond. The Hills of Mexico. Down on Me. One for the Road. I'm Alright. One Single River. People Get Ready. I Don't Hurt Anymore. The Stones That You Throw. One Man's Loss. All You Have To Do Is Dream 1. All You Have To Do Is Dream 2. I'm Not There (1956). Please Mrs. Henry. Down in the Flood 2. Lo and Behold 2. Odds and Ends 2. Get Your Rocks Off. Clothesline Saga. Apple Suckling Tree 2. Tiny Montgomery. Sign on the Cross. This Wheel's On Fire. You Ain't Going Nowhere 2. I Shall Be Released. Instrumental

jam. Baby Ain't That Fine. Rock Salt and Nails. A Fool Such As I. Going to Acapulco. Gonna Get You Now. Million Dollar Bash 2. Yea! Heavy and A Bottle of Bread 2.

Note: These reels, accessed in 1986 and subsequently bootlegged on two double-albums, are in their original stereo. Songs on this release from the 1986 reels appear direct from master for the first time.

7. The 1991 Cassettes: cassette 1 - Million Dollar Bash 1. Yea! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread 1. Million Dollar Bash 2. Yea! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread 2. I'm Not There (1956). Please Mrs. Henry. Crash on the Levee 1. Crash on the Levee 2. Lo and Behold 1. Lo and Behold 2.

Cassette 2 - I'm A Fool For You 1+2. Next Time on the Highway. Tupelo. You Gotta Quit Kickin' My Dog Aroun'. See You Later, Allen Ginsberg. Tiny Montgomery. The Spanish Song 1. The Spanish Song 2. I'm Your Teenage Prayer. Four Strong Winds. The French Girl 1. The French Girl 2. Joshua Gone Barbados. I'm in the Mood For Love. All-American Boy. Sign on the Cross.

Cassette 3' - Tears of Rage 1. Tears of Rage 2. Tears of Rage 3. Quinn the Eskimo 1. Quinn the Eskimo 2. Open the Door Homer 1. Open the Door Homer 2. Open the Door Homer 3. Nothing Was Delivered 1. Nothing Was Delivered 2.

Cassette 4 - Going to Acapulco. Gonna Get You Now. Wildwood Flower. See That My Grave Is Kept Clean. Comin' Round the Mountain. Instrumental jam. Flight of the Bumble Bee. Confidential to Me. Odds and Ends 1. Nothing Was Delivered 3. Odds and Ends 2. Get Your Rocks Off. Clothesline Saga. Apple Suckling Tree 1. Apple Suckling Tree 2.

Cassette 5 - Belchezaar. I Forgot to Remember to Forget Her. You Win Again. Still in Town, Still Around. Waltzin' with Sin. Big River 1. Big River 2. Folsom Prison Blues. Bells of Rhymney. Nine Hundred Miles. Goin' Down The Road. Spanish is the Loving Tongue. I Can't Come In with a Broken Heart. Come All Ye Fair and Tender Ladies. Under Control. Ol' Roison the Beau. I'm Guilty of Loving You. Johnny Todd. Cool Water. Banks of the Royal Canal. Po' Lazarus.

Note: The primary source for the Genuine Basement Tapes Vols. 1-5, these cassettes are all in the original stereo, though some suffer from overrecording in their transfer from reel. An alternate dub of the same material for this set has yielded some better transfers. Also included in this collection of cassettes was misc. Dylan/Band material from 1965-66 as well as a dub of the 10-song Dwarf Music demo.



all compositions by B. Dylan unless otherwise indicated.

Those marked © have been copyrighted to Bob Dylan by Dwarf Music.

* - remastered from a generationally superior version of the source tape utilised on 5-CD set.

** - remastered from an alternate source tape to that utilised on 5-CD set.

*** - omitted from the 5-CD set.

All other recordings have been remastered from a brand new, state-of-the-art A-to-D transfer of the original cassette sources utilised on the Genuine Basement Tapes 5-CD set, with songs rebalanced and EQd where appropriate.

Bob Dylan



A TREE WITH ROOTS

THE GENUINE BASEMENT TAPE REMASTERS

CD 1

1. Lock Your Door*
2. Baby, Won't You Be My Baby*
3. Try Me Little Girl*
4. Young But Daily Growin'** (Trad.)
5. Bonnie Ship the Diamond* (Trad.)
6. The Hills of Mexico* (Trad.)
7. Down on Me* (Trad.)
8. I Can't Make It Alone*
9. Don't You Try Me Now*
10. One for the Road*
11. I'm Alright*
12. One Single River* (Ian Tyson-Sylvia Fricker)
13. People Get Ready* (Curtis Mayfield)
14. I Don't Hurt Anymore* (Don Robertson-Jack Rollins)
15. (Be Careful of) The Stones That You Throw*
16. One Man's Loss* (Bonnie Dodd)
17. Baby, Ain't That Fine** (Dallas Frazier)
18. Rock, Salt & Nails* (Bruce Phillips)
19. A Fool Such As I* (Bill Trader)
20. Silhouette* (Frank C. Slay Jr.-Bob Crewe)
21. Bring it On Home*
22. King of France*
23. Nine Hundred Miles* (Trad.)
24. Goin' Down The Road* (Trad.)
25. Spanish is the Loving Tongue**
(Charles Badger Clark-J. Williams)
26. Po' Lazarus (Trad.)

CD 2

1. On a Rainy Afternoon*
2. I Can't Come in with a Broken Heart*
3. Come All Ye Fair & Tender Ladies*** (Trad.)
4. Under Control*
5. Ol' Roison the Beau** (Trad.)
6. I'm Guilty of Loving You**
7. Johnny Todd** (Trad.)
8. Cool Water** (Bob Nolan)
9. Banks of the Royal Canal** (Brendan Behan)
10. Belchezaar (Johnny Cash)
11. I Forgot to Remember to Forget Her
(Stan Kesler-Charlie Feathers)
12. You Win Again (Hank Williams)
13. Still in Town, Still Around (Johnny Cash)
14. Waltzin' with Sin (Hayes-Burns)
15. Big River - take 1** (Johnny Cash)
16. Big River - take 2** (Johnny Cash)
17. Folsom Prison Blues** (Johnny Cash)
18. Bells of Rhymney** (Idris Davies-Pete Seeger)
19. I'm A Fool For You - false start + take
20. Next Time on the Highway
21. Tupelo (John Lee Hooker)
22. You Gotta Quit Kickin' My Dog Aroun'
(Webb M. Oungst-Cy Perkins)
23. See You Later, Allen Ginsberg (Robert Guidry)
24. Tiny Montgomery ©
25. The Spanish Song - take 1
26. The Spanish Song - take 2
27. I'm Your Teenage Prayer

CD 3

1. Four Strong Winds (Ian Tyson)
2. The French Girl - take 1 (Ian Tyson)
3. The French Girl - take 2 (Ian Tyson)
4. Joshua Gone Barbados (Eric Von Schmidt)
5. I'm in the Mood for Love (John Lee Hooker)
6. All-American Boy (Bobby Bare-Orville Lunsford) ©
7. Sign on the Cross** ©
8. Santa Fe* ©
9. Silent Weekend* ©
10. Don't Ya Tell Henry* ©
11. Bourbon Street* ©
12. Million Dollar Bash - take 1 ©
13. Ye! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread - take 1 ©
14. Million Dollar Bash - take 2**
15. Ye! Heavy and a Bottle of Bread - take 2**
16. I'm Not There (1956)** ©
17. Please Mrs Henry** ©
18. Crash on the Levee (Down in the Flood) - take 1** ©
19. Crash on the Levee (Down in the Flood) - take 2**
20. Lo and Behold - take 1** ©
21. Lo and Behold - take 2**
22. You Ain't Going Nowhere - take 1* ©
23. Too Much of Nothing - take 1** ©
24. This Wheel's On Fire** ©
25. You Ain't Going Nowhere - take 2**
26. I Shall Be Released** ©

CD 4

1. Too Much of Nothing - take 2**
2. Tears of Rage - take 1 ©
3. Tears of Rage - take 2
4. Tears of Rage - take 3
5. Quinn the Eskimo (The Mighty Quinn) - take 1 ©
6. Quinn the Eskimo (The Mighty Quinn) - take 2
7. Open the Door Homer - take 1 ©
8. Open the Door Homer - take 2
9. Open the Door Homer - take 3
10. Nothing Was Delivered - take 1 ©
11. Nothing Was Delivered - take 2
12. Goin' to Acapulco ©
13. Gonna Get You Now
14. Wildwood Flower (A.P. Carter)
15. See That My Grave Is Kept Clean (Trad. arr. Jefferson)
16. Comin' 'Round the Mountain (Trad.)
17. Instrumental jam
18. Flight of the Bumble Bee
19. Confidential to Me (Dorinda Morgan)
20. Odds and Ends - take 1 ©
21. Nothing Was Delivered - take 3
22. Odds and Ends - take 2
23. Get Your Rocks Off** ©
24. Clothesline Saga (Answer to Ode)** ©
25. Apple Suckling Tree - take 1 ©
26. Apple Suckling Tree - take 2
27. All You Have To Do Is Dream - take 1*
28. All You Have To Do Is Dream - take 2*

BOBBY D.
& THE BASEMENT FOUR
A TREE WITH ROOTS

THE GENUINE BASEMENT
REMASTERS VOLUME 1
A GENUINE DOBERMAN DISC GBD001

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A TREE WITH ROOTS:
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REMASTERS
- VOLUME 3 -

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REMASTERS
- VOLUME 4 -