

C.C. Rider [1927]

Arranged by Edward Joseph Collins, composer

Introduction by Carl Sandburg, AMERICAN SONGBAG author,
and Chicago acquaintance of Collins.

John Lomax and I heard this song (A) in Austin, Texas, in an old saloon, *The Silver King*, operated as a soft drink parlor by a Mexican negro, Martinez. After two negroes with guitars had sung "The Original Blues," "Frankie and Johnny," "Boll Weevil," and other pieces, Martinez himself favored us with "C. C. Rider," which may derive from "easy rider."...The Sunshine Special, a crack railroad train, has crossed Texas every day for many years... . In the last line of the first verse the word "blowed" is given long, slow, controlled and powerful, like the whistle of an onrushing overland train on a southwestern prairie; likewise the word "shine" in the last line of the second verse...Text B is from Gates Thomas and his south Texas negro songs.

A.

1. Dat Sunshine Special comin' around de bend,
It blowed jus' like it nevah blowed befoh.
It blowed jus' like it nevah blowed befoh.
It blowed jus' like it nevah blowed befoh.
2. If I had a head-light like on a passenger train,
I'd shine my light on cool Colorado Springs,
I'd shine my light on cool Colorado Springs,
I'd shine my light on cool Colorado Springs.
3. Oh C. C. Rider, now see what you done, done,
You made me love you, now your sweetheart's come,
You made me love you, now your sweetheart's come,
You made me love you, now your sweetheart's come.

B.

1. C. C. Rider, just see what you have done!
You made me love you, now yo' woman's done come!
You made me love you, now yo' woman's done come!
You made me love you, now yo' woman's done come!
2. You caused me, Rider, to hang my head and cry;
You put me down; God knows I don't see why!
You put me down; God knows I don't see why!
You put me down; God knows I don't see why!