

# Little Red Shoes

Bill Monroe

I was 11 months old, I was just startin' to walk  
And daddy always kept, a big stick behind the door  
Just in case somebody was to come in  
That was drunk on moonshine  
You know and daddy had to do something about it  
Anyway, this woman, we called her old Aunt Boyd  
She come in and she was telling mommy about her  
Uh, husband, she thinks is going out with this woman in Paintsville  
So she reared back with that big stick  
Showing mommy how she was going  
To hit this woman in the head with it  
And when she went back with it, she hit me in the head  
And Mommy said, I cried for 5 days  
And she said I, that fifth night  
I had a great big knot that show up  
Right in the middle of my forehead  
And, you know, the only thing I remember  
I don't remember no pain, but I just remember mommy  
And daddy carrying me in this old quilt  
That Mommy had made out of overhalls  
The knots kept getting bigger and bigger  
And she took me to the doctor  
And that stuff called mesitor, something like that  
Mommy said it made both ears  
Flat to my face and I ain't got very big ears  
And them, told Mommy  
That I would that I was going to die  
And that happened like four times  
So I didn't walk till I was almost 5  
It was, it was kind of a mess  
Oh, I forgot about the shoes  
Well, shoot, I hadn't, I'd never had a pair of shoes  
And Mommy had went, took me to the hospital  
You know, to see what that was  
If they couldn't do something, but they wouldn't keep me  
Because Mommy and Daddy didn't have no money  
They just tell 'em to take me home and let me die, you know  
Because there wasn't nothing they could do about

That kind of disease, I guess

And, um, mommy told daddy, says, "Ted, you take her  
Down the street, you carry her down the street"  
And said, "Let me try this store here?"  
And Mommy went in and told them the story that I was dying  
That she had to carry me twelve miles to town  
And twelve miles back and that I had no shoes  
That place, I think it was Murphy's 5 and 10  
And they're still there in Paintsville, Kentucky  
And I think that they told Mommy  
That they wasn't in business to give shoes away  
Mommy told daddy, says, "Carry Loretta on down a little farther?"  
Said, "And let me stop in another store"  
And Mommy went right back to the same store  
When the guy's back was turned she stole these little red shoes  
And I remember on the big old bridge that went across the river  
It went way up high and was  
I've always been scared of that bridge  
That took me across the big Sandy River  
Mommy pulled them out from under  
That yellow jacket that she was wearing  
And she was putting them red shoes on me  
And I thought them was the prettiest things I ever saw in my life  
And daddy started crying and I wondered why  
And he said, "Clerie, we're not going to make it home?"  
And mommy put the shoes on me and daddy took off running  
And run all the way ahead to Butcher Holler with me  
And Mommy never had a chance to carry me any farther  
And that's almost twelve miles that daddy run with me  
But daddy knew that the cops was going to get us  
He left Mommy standing and he took off in a dead run  
I remember him running but I didn't know what for  
And I remember asking mommy, "Mommy, why is Daddy running?"  
I remember her hollering, "To put your little red shoes away  
Honey, when you get home? Can you believe that?"  
So I wrote a song called "Put My Little Red Shoes Away?"  
You know, they're my little red shoes  
And I don't want 'em to get to be dirty

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