

(Myrtle sings two more songs. She keeps time with her foot.)

My old man made this song up. Yeah, when our boys were in the service. He said: "Lord, have pity on the soldier boys. We depend on them." That's the words that's on there. He made that song.

(Sings another war song)

(What kind of a song was that?)

It's one of the war songs. It says: "It's good to stay away a long time, because if you turn back, it's a shame." When they give up, you know, on this war--come back and not go back, it's a shame. "There's a big mountain on the side where they can stay over." That's what that says. There's a big mountain and they can stay over. You know, stay all night or something like that. It's a shame to turn back. That's what it means. It's good to stay away a long time. Another song. Now we'll sing a few Forty-Nines, I guess.

(Just a minute. These songs here you were just singing--did they ever dance to these?)

No. They don't dance to them. They sing them, you know, when the boys go away. Like if you want to sing them in the evening, well, you stand outside and sing these songs. Then in the night you can sing them, too, to think of the boys--where they're at, you know--they're in the war. That's why my voice kind of shake. It makes me think of my grandson. I think he's in a hard place. I think about him when I sing about--about him. I sing about him every night. In the morning first thing when I wake up, I get up and sing these songs--for my grandson so that the Lord will look over him and bring him back home safe. Without a scratch. That's my wish all the time. And sometimes I can't help but break down when I sing these songs for my grandson.

(Did men and women both sing them?)