The Log Driver's Waltz

If you should ask any girl from the parish round, What
pleases her most from her head to her toes, She'll say I'm not
sure that it's business of yours, But I do like to waltz with a
log driver For he goes burling down a-down white water;
That's how the log driver learns to step lightly, It's burling
down a-down white water; a log driver's waltz pleases
girls completely.

Chorus:
For he goes
Burling down a-down white water;
That's where the log driver learns to step lightly.
It's burling down a-down white water;
A log drivers' waltz pleases girls completely.

When the drive's nearly over I like to go down
To see all the lads while they work on the river.
I know that come evening they'll be in the town
And we all want to waltz with a log driver.

To please both my parents I've had to give way
And dance with the doctors and merchants and lawyers.
Their manners are fine but their feet are of clay
For there's none with the style of a log driver.

Now I've had my chances with all sorts of men
But none is so fine as my lad on river;
So when the drive's over, if he asks me again
I think I will marry my log driver.
Wade Hemsworth, born in Brantford, Ontario, has been singing traditional songs since he was young. His experiences just after the War with surveying parties in northern Ontario and Quebec led him to write his own songs (including the well-known “Black Fly Song”), and since then he has written many, many fine songs.

Anyone wishing to hear Hemsworth himself sing can listen to Folk Songs of the Canadian North Woods (Folkways FW6821). Although the album doesn’t contain “Log Drivers’ Waltz”, it does have three other of his songs as well as a number of traditional songs from that area.

— Fred Weiths