

Son of a Pulpwood Cutter

[Regular talking blues chord pattern.]

Hey, I'm the son of a pulpwood cutter,
And I'm rough and tough just like an otter.
Raised in the bush about sixty miles back
From any highway or railway track.

Now my first stick o' pulp I cut at eleven,
It was forty below at a quarter to seven,
With the snow right up to my behind,
And the whiskeyjacks laughin' all o' the time.
... Laugh away bird. ... yeah, my feet are cold too.

Now I had no schooling of to speak
And I taught myself, yes, how to read,
Sittin in a biffy at forty below
And lookin' at pictures from an Eaton's catalogue.

There was no such thing as a power saw
And I had to use an old swede saw;
But I cut my two-an'-a-half cords a day
And I stacked it up for to haul away.

Now on Saturday night I have a drink or two,
And I go real squirrely on old home brew;
Do a little stompin' on the old board floor,
Dancin' with a broom til a quarter to four.

So I'm packin' it in at forty-two.
Gonna find me a woman about twenty-two,
And raise me about ten or twelve kids
And live off the baby bonus that rolls in.

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And I'm rough and tough just like an otter.
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Mel Brown grew up in a small town in northwestern Ontario called Emo. He was about twelve when he started singing country and western songs—his influences being Wilf Carter and the late Jimmy Rogers.

In the late 1940's Mel sang at local dances during the intermission. However, from 1950 to 1970 singing and playing was a hobby only. Then about 1974 Mel started to write country and western songs. The local CBC heard some of the songs and taped them for the station. Since then, Mel has played in coffee-houses and at the local university. Some of his songs and an interview were done for the CBC show "Touch the Earth."

