

## Three Canadian Women's Blues

Here's a little supplement to our blues feature in the March issue (32.1). While not everyone who plays blues can or should be considered a *bluesman* (or *-woman*), the idiom is available to anyone who's paying attention in this century. I don't recall another blues in Vera Johnson's repertoire, for example, but this blues is nevertheless highly effective. Of course, blues has always been prominent in Penny Lang's repertoire, and in Linda Morrison's, though Morrison has a lot of legit training for a blues singer! [GWL]



### Women's Liberation Blues

words & music © Vera Johnson

*Surely none but the newest of Bulletin readers will need to be introduced to Vera Johnson, one of the great women of the Canadian folk music revival and a master songwriter. Since issue 29.1 (March 1995), this publication has periodically been the proud venue for her documentation of the revival, first in a*

*memoir of her own career and later (30.4 December 1996) in an account of her interactions with Edith Fowke; both of these, as well a handful of marginal entries in various issues, come from her fabled diaries. Vera's songbook is available from the CSTM Mail Order Service.*



Mom-ma said, "You got-ta cook and sew 'cause you're a wo-man,



Scrub the floors and knead the bis-cuit dough 'cause you're a wo-man,



Mak-in' beds, that's what you have to know 'cause you're a wo-man."

Momma said, "You gotta cook and sew  
'Cause you're a woman;  
Scrub the floors and knead the biscuit dough  
'Cause you're a woman;  
Makin' beds, that's what you have to know,  
'Cause you're a woman."

Teacher said, "It's office work for you,  
'Cause you're a woman;  
You will type and take dictation too,  
'Cause you're a woman;  
Always see things from the boss's view,  
'Cause you're a woman."

I had status and a salary,  
I was a woman;  
I scorned the sweeper in the factory,  
I was a woman;  
But he was making twice as much as me,  
I was a woman.

Then I married and the babies came,  
I was a woman;  
I stayed at home and played the housework game,  
I was a woman;  
And then I started thinking what a dirty shame  
I was a woman.

They had put me in a pigeon-hole,  
I was a woman;  
Just a doll without a mind or soul,  
I was a woman;  
Cast that doll in a supporting role,  
I was a woman.

They say I was made from Adam's rib  
'Cause I'm a woman,  
That I was built to rock a baby's crib  
'Cause I'm a woman;  
Guess I'll go and fight for women's lib.,  
'Cause I'm a woman. (Repeat last two lines.)