

DAVE EDMUNDS MARTY ROBBINS KITTY WELLS ELECTRIC BLUEBIRDS PROGRESSIVE COUNTRY

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CLASSIC TRACKS

GUY CLARK OLD No. 1

Rita Ballou / L.A. Freeway / She ain't goin' nowhere / A nickle for the Fiddler / That old time feeling / Texas 1947 / Desperadoes waiting for the train / Like a coat from the cold / Instant coffee blues / Let him roll. (RCA APL-1303).

I suppose when an artist has a reservoir of songs to draw from, then, when the opportunity presents itself to record them, he uses the cream of the crop.

The first album that Guy Clark recorded for RCA, actually contained four tracks from sessions he had done for Sunbar productions. Guy was already signed to Sunbury Music, as far as publishing his songs was concerned.

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Fellow Texan, Jerry Jeff Walker had been one of the first artists to record one of Guy's songs, when he featured, 'L.A. Freeway' on his 1972 self titled album.

By 1975 when the 'Old No. 1' album appeared, Guy Clark's main claim to fame was as a songwriter. In fact, the album's title is probably a sly poke at the number of attempts it had taken, to produce his first album.

RCA in Britain, imported a small quantity of the album initially, but eventually pressed British copies when the import copies rapidly sold out.

There is no doubting that Guy had bided his time, because the album contains songs riddled with the imagery of growing up in Texas; Honky Tonks and all. His greatest strength probably lies in his ability to paint in detail, with words, scenes, situations and characters which become three dimensional for the listener.

Clark's voice hints of a life spent consuming beer and whisky and smoking cigarettes. He definitely couldn't be classed as a singer in the true sense of the word, but when he begins to tell his stories in music ... Great.

