



Loy Clingman

Trail Hand To Folk Singer

'Uranium Blues' Clingman's First Strike

By BILL ANDREWS  
ARLINGTON—With a growing interest in folk music, Loy Clingman of Arlington, has risen from a young trail hand to a folk singer and recording artist.

Clingman's first record was cut early 1955 and called "Uranium Blues." His latest effort is an album of his own Grand Canyon songs. Most of his music on the album bears a resemblance to what we know as folk music.

Our concern here, then, is to look over the factors which may have influenced Clingman to sing folk music.

LOY CLINGMAN was born in the pine country near Williams, in the heart of Arizona's folk song country. His young life was marked with frequent moves, as his father, Hugh Clingman, was a rodeo performer. He lived New Mexico and Texas in pre-school years.

The Clingmans settled in Ash Fork, between Prescott and Williams, so Loy could attend grade school.

DURING grade school and part of high school, Loy took part in several cattle drives. On the drives, Loy heard cowboys sing folk songs, little realizing the effect the songs would play in his life.

"They were rugged songs, telling the tales of northern Arizona, its beauties, and people," Clingman recalled. "I learned some of those songs on the cattle drives, some from attending rodeos and some from the cattle ranches where I worked during summers."

Folk songs took a back seat to education when Cling-

man attended high school in Wickenburg and for a brief time in Redwood City, Calif. The call for higher education beckoned and Clingman attended the University of Arizona and Arizona State. During collegiate years, he performed folk songs for assemblies and parties.

"After graduation, I set up a flight training school at the Wickenburg Airport. I gave flight instruction in single engine airplanes. I fly gliders now as a hobby," he added.

Clingman, who is presently sixth grade teacher at Arlington School, started teaching in the spring of 1950 at the Judson School for Boys in Scottsdale. In the fall of that year, he moved to Show Low to teach, then to Arlington.

Clingman's life in Arlington is a story within itself.

He and his wife, Hassie, reside in what might be considered a dream world to nervous city dwellers. Their rejuvenated World War II housing unit sits on a cliff overlooking a good 25 miles into Arlington Valley — (50 miles west of Phoenix).

THE HOUSE is almost completely surrounded by mountains with enough color and variety to stagger the imagination.

Loy can look out of his living room window into the valley below and see the school where he teaches. A narrow, dusty road is the only auto access to his outpost. An airstrip lies about 100 yards from his

home where ranchers in the valley leave their airplanes.

The only thing Clingman holds against this location is the powdery dust and the absence of ironwood trees. He holds a strange attachment to ironwood trees.

ALL THE foregoing was an attempt to picture parts of Loy Clingman's life which could have influenced his love of folk music. Now to report what folk music has done for him...

"In the summer and fall of 1949, I sang folk songs over a weekly radio program over KTYL. While teaching in Show Low in 1950, I held several folk song concerts. During the summer, I spent time touring northern Arizona communities giving folk song concerts.

"Last year I wrote several songs somewhat along folk song lines and took them to Lee Hazlewood, owner of VIV Record Company in Phoenix. Lee liked the songs and asked me to put them on record."

THE SONGS, "Uranium Blues" and "Time Wounds All Heels," were released early last year and distributed nationally.

Enough comment was strung through Clingman's first records that VIV went to the expense of releasing their first album, "From Rim to River," by Loy Clingman. All four songs on the album were written by Clingman. One song in particular was influenced by real life. In 1955, 51, 52, Clingman worked summers at Grand Canyon as a sightseeing bus driver. This his humorous song on the album, "Bus Driver's Lament."

"My plans for the future," Loy answered, "will include traveling the state seeking more folk songs, write songs, and plans to visit the Library of Congress over Christmas holidays to hear their collection of folk music."

THIS SUMMER, Loy made a trip to northern Arizona to tape record folk songs as he heard them. That makes Clingman, as far as we know, the only person in Arizona collecting folk music in such fashion.

In conclusion, it might be gathered that a wide-spread knowledge of Arizona, its people,

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