

Apple Picker's Reel

words & music by Larry Hanks

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Larry Hanks is one of the Northwest's most respected folk singers. This next song was inspired by a two-week stint of apple picking in the Fall of 1966. In the best tradition of oral song transmission, the song keeps growing! A group of school kids added the next to the last verse.

Hey, ho, makes you feel so fine, looking
out a-cross the or-chard in the bright sun-shine.
Hey, ho, makes you feel so free,
standing in the top of an ap-ple tree.

Up in the morning before the sun,
I don't get home until the day is done,
My pick-sack's heavy and my shoulder's sore,
But I'll be back tomorrow to pick some more. chorus

Start at the bottom and you pick 'em from the ground,
And you pick that tree clean all the way around,
Then you set up your ladder and you climb up high,
And you're looking thru the leaves at the clear blue sky.
chorus

Three-legged ladder, wobbly as hell,
Reaching for an apple - woah! I almost fell,
Got a 20-pound sack hanging 'round my neck,
And there's two more apples that I can't quite get.
chorus

Hey, ho, makes you feel so down,
Pickin' up windfalls, crawling on the ground,
Hey, ho, you feel so free,
Standing in the top of an apple tree. chorus

Well, they come in yellow and green and red,
And you eat 'em in the mornin' and before you
go to bed,
You can play catch if you throw 'em up high,
Whoops! Squish! Apple pie! chorus

Hey, ho, you lose your mind,
If you sing this song about a hundred times,
Hey, ho, you feel so free,
Standing in the top of an apple tree.

