Buffalo Skinners


Come all of you jolly buffalo skinners and listen to my song,
If you will pay attention I won't detain you long.
'Tis concerning some jolly bull-skinners that did agree to go
And spend a summer pleasantly on the Range of the Buffalo.

It was in the town of Jacksboro in the spring of seventy-three
That a man by the name of Crigor came walking up to me;
Says he, "How do you do, young fellow, and how would you like to go
And spend a summer pleasantly on the Range of the Buffalo?"

On being out of employment, I answered unto him,
"Going out with you on the Buffalo Range depends upon the pay.
If you will pay good wages and transportation too,
I will go with you to the Buffalo Range and spend a month or two."

"Oh yes, I'll, pay good wages and transportation too,
If you will go with me to the Buffalo Range and spend the summer through;
But if you get tired and homesick and to Jacksboro go,
I will not pay you wages from the Range of the Buffalo."

By such talk and flattery he enlisted quite a crew, I think 'twas twenty-one.
And when he got to Pease River our troubles then begun.
The very first tail I tried to split - Christ! How I cut my thumb!
And out skinning those damned old stinkers, our lives we had no show,
For the Indians watched to pick us off out skinning the Buffalo.

We live on rotten buffalo hump and damned old iron-wedge bread,
Strong coffee, croton water to drink, and a bull hide for a bed;
And the way the gray-backs worked on us, God knows it was not slow!
God grant there is no hell on earth like the Range of the Buffalo.

The season being ended, Old Crigor could not pay -
The outfit was so extravagant he was in debt that day -
But among us jolly bull-skinners bankruptcy would not go,
So we left poor Crigor's bones to bleach on the Range of the Buffalo.

Now we are 'cross the Brazos River and homeward we are bound,
And in this hell-fired country we never shall be found.
We will go home to our wives and sweetheats and tell others not to go
To that god-forsaken hell on earth - the Range of the Buffalo.