

# IDA RED

Traditional Old-Time, Breakdown; **DATE:** Late 1800's- early 1900's; Meade, Spottswood, Meade: Journal of American Folklore XXVIII, 1915. **CATEGORY:** Fiddle and Instrumental Tunes; **RECORDINGS:** Fiddlin' Powers & Family 1924; Riley Puckett 1926; Charlie Poole and the North Carolina Ramblers 1928; Bob Wills 1938; Gid Tanner and His Skillet Lickers; Tommy Jarrell; **OTHER NAMES:** "Idy Red;" "Shootin' Creek;" "Over the Road I'm Bound to Go;" **RELATED TO:** "Cripple Creek;" "Shootin' Creek" (Charlie Poole); "Feather Bed" (Cannon's Jug Stompers); "Over the Road I'm Bound To Go" (Uncle Dave Macon); "Down the Road" (Uncle Dave Macon & Flatt and Scruggs); **NOTES:** Ida Red was originally supposed to have been an African-American bad man (Lomax), but the gender of the character in most versions is feminine or androgynous. Riley Puckett's (north Georgia) version of the tune, released in 1926, became the second best-selling country music record for the year. There are two distinct branches of the Ida Red song: 1) The western branch includes Bob Wills's 1938 version which is based on "The Parlor is a Pleasant Place to Sit on Sunday Night," by Albert E. Porter 1886. 2) The southern branch features short clipped floating lyrics (Ida Red/Ida Green) similar to Cripple Creek. The Skillet Lickers and also Charlie Poole's versions are part of this line. Woody Guthrie, a popular radio entertainer in the 40's, sang "Ida Red", and its melody was used by rock and roll pioneer Chuck Berry for his 1955 classic "Mabelline." Some versions sing a verse then sing the chorus twice.

*Verse*

I - da red, I - da Green, Pur - ti - est gal I ev - er seen.

*Chorus*

I - da Red, I - da Red, I'm just cra - zy 'bout I - da Red.

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**D**  
**Verse:** Ida Red, Ida Green  
**A7 D**

Prettiest gal I ever seen.

**D**  
**Chorus:** Ida Red, Ida Red

**A7 D**  
I'm just crazy 'bout Ida Red.

Ida Red lives in town  
Weighs three hundred and forty pounds.

Ida red, Ida Red  
I'm plum crazy about Ida Red.

Ida Red, Ida Blue  
Ida bit a hoecake half in two.

Ida Red, Ida Red  
Everybody's crazy 'bout Ida Red.

If I'd 'a listened to what Ida said  
I'd 'a been sleepin' in Ida's bed.

If Ida said that she'd be mine  
I'd be Ida's all the time.

If Ida said she'd be my wife  
I'd be happy all my life.