

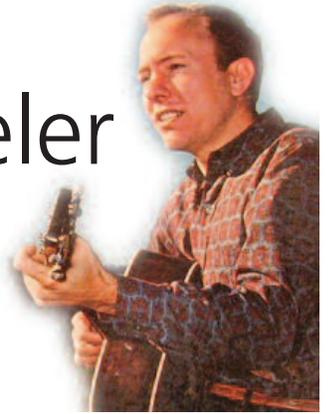
**WEST VIRGINIA
MUSIC
HALL OF FAME**



**Song
Lyrics**

This song links with Billy Edd's stories about his boyhood in a coal camp. He says he wrote this song from firsthand research.

Billy Edd Wheeler



Ode to the Little Brown Shack Out Back

by Billy Edd Wheeler

They passed an ordinance in the town
They said we'd have to tear it down,
That little brown shack out back, so dear to me.
Though the Health Department said
Its day was over and dead,
It will stand forever in my memory.

Don't let 'em tear that little brown building down (3X)
For there's not another like it,
in the country or the town.

Well, it was not so long ago,
That I went trippin' through the snow,
Out to that house, behind my old houn' dog.
There I'd set me down to rest,
Like a snowbird on her nest,
An' read the Sears and Roebuck catalog.

I would hum a happy tune, / peepin' through the quarter-Moon,
Just like my daddy's kin had done before. / It was in that quiet spot,
That daily cares could be forgot. / It gave the same relief to rich and poor.

Now, it was not a castle fair, / but I could build my future there,
an' build my castles to the yellow jacket's drone.
I could orbit round the Sun,
Fight with General Washington / or be a King upon his golden throne.

It wasn't fancy built at all. / It had newspapers on the wall,
It was air-conditioned in the wintertime. / It was just a humble hut,
But its door was never shut. / and a man could get inside without a dime.

Last chorus:

Don't let 'em tear that little brown building down,
Don't let 'em tear that precious building down,
Don't let 'em tear that dear old building down,
For there's not another like it
In the country or the town.