

The Black Fly Song

'Twas early in the spring when i decide to go
To work up in the woods in north On-tar-i-o
The unemployment office said they'd send'n me through
To the little abi-taffi with the survey crew

*And the black flies, the little black flies
Always the black fly, no matter where you go
I'll die with the black fly a-picking my bones
In north on-tar-i-o-i-o, in north on-tar-i-o*

The man, Black Toby was the captain of the crew
He said, "I'm gonna tell you boys what we're gonna do
They want to build a power dam and we must find a way
To redirect the water flow around the other way

We survey to the east and we survey to the west
We couldn't make our minds up on how to do it best
Little ab, little ab, what shall i do
I'm all but goin' crazy on the survey crew

Black fly, black fly everywhere
A-crawlin' in your whiskers and a-crawlin' in your hair
A-swimmin' in the soup and a-swimmin in the tea
The Devil damn this dam and make the flies me be

Black toby fell swearin' 'cause the work went slow
And the state of our morale was gettin' pretty low
The flies swarmed heavy, it was hard to catch a breath
As you staggered up and down the trail, talkin' to yourself

The cookin' chefs name was blind river joe
If it hadn't been for him we'd have never pulled it through
'Couse he bound up our bruises, and he kidded us for fun
And he lathered us with bacon grease and balsam gum

At last the job was over, black toby said, we're through
With the little abi-taffi and the survey crew
'Twas a wonderful experience and this i know
I'll never go again to north Ontar-i-o