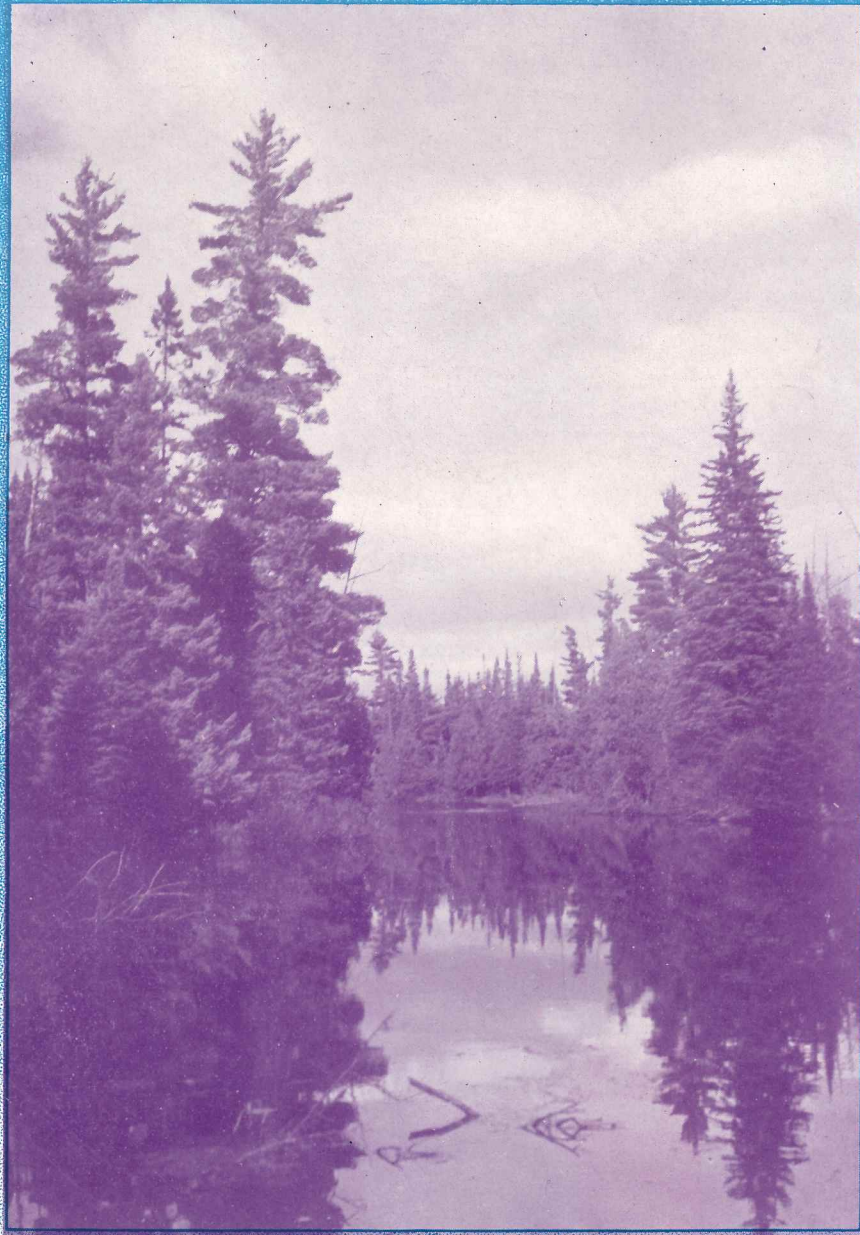


Take Me Back To Old Wisconsin

words and music by H.W. MacKenzie



• PUBLISHED BY •
H. W. MacKenzie
MADISON, WIS.

Harley MacKenzie, composer of the words and music of the song, "Take Me Back to Old Wisconsin," knew first-hand of the beauty and wonders of "Old Wisconsin." The song was written when MacKenzie, headquartered in Antigo, served as a state game warden in northern Wisconsin, then a semi-frontier.

The job of game warden was a lonely one, with little communication with the outside. Of necessity, Mac worked alone most of the time. He spent many days and nights lying in wait beside a springhole for the game law violator to pick up the illegal nets, or stalking deer violators, or whatever, who made light of Wisconsin's game laws.

Lonely days and nights brought a deep appreciation of the beauty of the countryside, its woods, rivers and lakes. As he worked, Mac expressed his appreciation of that beauty in the tune he hummed and the words he set to fit the music. The song grew bit by bit...the chorus first, then came the verses...telling of the beauty around him. In his growing-up years he had played in an orchestra and had sung in male quartets. The song evidences his enjoyment of music and his inherent love of the out-of-doors.

Many years later while serving as the Conservation Director for the State, at the urging of friends he had the song published. Without his knowledge it was introduced at the National Convention of the Democrat party in 1936 at Philadelphia, sung by Miles McNally, a delegate to the convention from the ninth district of Wisconsin. (MacKenzie was non-partisan.) The song was a hit at the convention and put Wisconsin in the foreground as a state of scenic beauty, wildlife and recreation.

The cover photograph is of the Brule river in Douglas County, a part of the territory served by Mac. It was a favorite fishing and vacation spot for former President Calvin Coolidge.

Take Me Back to Old Wisconsin

Words and Music by
H. W. MacKENZIE

Moderato

PIANO *f*

VOICE *mf*

mf

shad-ows flick-er 'round me — From the fire logs' rud-dy glow — I am hap-py life un-end-ing — In a glor-ious par-a-dise — The dream-ing of her for-ests — That once were mine to roam; — Her on-ly one I dream of — Far a-way from cit-y strife — Is a

Guitar Chords: *Bb*, *D7*, *Gm*, *F7*, *Bb*, *G dim.*, *F7*, *Bb*, *F7*, *Bb*, *D7*, *Eb*, *F7*, *D7*, *Gm*, *Bbm*

*) Symbols for Guitar,
Chords for Uke & Banjo

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shim-m'ring lakes and mur-m'ring streams 'Tis hap-pi-ness to know
 place in old Wis-con-sin for my ren-dez-vous with life

rit.

CHORUS

Take me back once a-gain to old Wis-con-sin To the

mf

Land O' the Lakes where I was born Where the hem-locks and pines their heads are

nod-ding To cool breez-es from the north each sum-mer morn. Where the

Bb Cm

wolf pack's wild howl so weird and lone - some Starts the

F7 D G7

deer from its bed in fear to roam It is

Bb7 Eb Ebm 1 Bb F7

there I long to be be-side a camp-fire In the Land O' the Lakes my old

Bb A7 F7 2 Bb F7 Bb Ebm Bb

home. Take me Land O' the Lakes my old home.

mf *f broadly* *f* *ff*

"TAKE ME BACK TO OLD WISCONSIN"

"Take Me Back to Old Wisconsin", words and music by H. W. MacKenzie, state conservation director, has been adopted by the conservation commission as the official song of the commission and the department.

The commission believes the song will very materially aid in the state campaign to publicize Wisconsin's outdoors. The music has been placed on sale at the conservation department office at Madison and by the Ward-Brodt Music Company, Madison, at 35 cents a copy.

The words of the new song follow:

1. I am far away tonight,
From Wisconsin, my old home;
The shadows flicker 'round me,
From the fire log's ruddy glow.
I am dreaming of her forests
That once were mine to roam;
Her shimm'ring lakes and murm'ring streams,
'Tis happiness to know.

CHORUS:

Take me back once again to old Wisconsin
To the land o' the lakes where I was born -
Where the hemlocks and pines their heads are nodding
To cool breezes from the north each summer morn'
Where the wolf pack's wild howl so weird and lonesome
Starts the deer from its bed in fear to roam -
It is there I long to be beside a campfire
In the land o' the lakes my old home.

2. We all seek to find some hav'n,
Far beyond the distant skies
With a happy life unending
In a glorious paradise.
The only one I dream of
Far away from city strife
Is a place in old Wisconsin
For my rendezvous with life.

CHORUS:

Take me back once again to old Wisconsin
To the land o' the lakes where I was born -
Where the hemlocks and pines their heads are nodding
To cool breezes from the north each summer morn'
Where the wolf pack's wild howl so weird and lonesome
Starts the deer from its bed in fear to roam -
It is there I long to be beside a campfire
In the land o' the lakes my old home.