

## **Burl Ives**

# **"Big Rock Candy Mountain"**

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Chorus:

Oh the buzzin' of the bees in the cigarette trees  
The soda water fountain where the lemonade springs  
And the bluebird sings in that Big Rock Candy Mountain

On a summer day  
In the month of May  
A burly bum came ahiking  
Down a shady lane  
Through the sugar cane  
He was looking for his liking  
As he strolled along  
He sang a song  
Of the land of milk and honey  
Where a bum can stay  
For many a day  
And he won't need any money

Chorus:

In the Big Rock Candy Mountain  
The cops have wooden legs  
The bulldogs all have rubber teeth  
And the hens lay soft-boiled eggs  
The farmers' trees are full of fruit  
The barns are full of hay  
I want to go where there ain't no snow  
Where the sleet don't fall and the wind don't blow  
In that Big Rock Candy Mountain

Alternate verses:

2. There's a lake of gin  
We can both jump in  
And the handouts grow on bushes  
In the new-mown hay  
We can sleep all day  
And the bars all have free lunches  
Where the mail train stops  
And there ain't no cops  
And the folks are tender-hearted  
Where you never change your socks

And you never throw rocks  
And your hair is never parted

Chorus:

3. Oh, a farmer and his son,  
They were on the run  
To the hay field they were bounding  
Said the bum to the son,  
"Why don't you come  
To that big rock candy mountain?"  
So the very next day  
They hiked away,  
The mileposts they were counting  
But they never arrived  
At the lemonade tide  
On the big rock candy mountain

Chorus:

1. One evening as the sun went down  
And the jungle fires were burning,  
Down the track came a hobo hiking,  
He said, "Boys, I'm not turning  
I'm heading for a land that's far away  
Beside the crystal fountain  
I'll see you all this coming fall  
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain  
Chorus:

2. In the Big Rock Candy Mountain,  
It's a land that's fair and bright,  
The handouts grow on bushes  
And you sleep out every night.  
The boxcars all are empty  
And the sun shines every day  
I'm bound to go  
Where there ain't no snow  
Where the sleet don't fall  
And the winds don't blow  
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.  
Chorus:

3. In the Big Rock Candy Mountain  
You never change your socks  
And little streams of alkyhol  
Come trickling down the rocks  
O the shacks all have to tip their hats  
And the railway bulls are blind  
There's a lake of stew  
And ginger ale too

And you can paddle  
All around it in a big canoe  
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain  
Chorus:

4. In the Big Rock Candy Mountain  
The cops have wooden legs  
The bulldogs all have rubber teeth  
And the hens lay soft-boiled eggs  
The box-cars all are empty  
And the sun shines every day  
I'm bound to go  
Where there ain't no snow  
Where the sleet don't fall  
And the winds don't blow  
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.  
Chorus:

5. In the Big Rock Candy Mountain,  
The jails are made of tin.  
You can slip right out again,  
As soon as they put you in.  
There ain't no short-handled shovels,  
No axes, saws nor picks,  
I'm bound to stay  
Where you sleep all day,  
Where they hung the jerk  
That invented work  
In the Big Rock Candy Mountain.  
Chorus:

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