

## Ray Stevens

### "The Ballad Of Cactus Pete And Lefty"

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This is the ballad of Cactus Pete.  
He spent his life out in the desert heat  
In Arizona and New Mexico,  
Searchin' for the motherlode.

He had no friends, he had no family,  
Just a pet sidewinder that he called Lefty,  
They shared a run-down minin' shack  
Out with the coyotes and horny toads.

[spoken]

Hehehe, yeah just look at 'im all coiled up o'er there.

I'll never forget the first time I saw 'im.

He 's just a-sneakin' up on a little toady frog.

[snake rattle]

Settle down, settle down, ain't no toady frogs, I'm just  
tellin' 'bout you sneakin' up on one.

He loves them little toady frogs [snake rattle] . . . Lord,  
I couldn't live like 'at.

You shoulda seen him when I first found him.

He had real bad teeth.

Yeah, just had two little bicuspid's there in front, lord  
what a gap.

Made Leon Sphinx look like Burt Lancaster.

Took him to the orthodontist.

Yeah, we tried braces, that didn't last too long.

Heck, I got tired of mashin' up them little toady frogs  
for 'im.

So we just had 'em capped.

Yeah, he'd have to have 'em filled anyway, they both  
had big cavities in 'em.

Oh, but just look at that smile on 'im over 'ere now,  
though.

Cactus Pete, Cactus Pete,  
With his pet sidewinder at his feet.  
Strangest old codger you ever wanna meet,  
This is the ballad of Lefty and Cactus Pete.

[spoken]

Hehehe, yeah me 'n old Lefty, we ain't got much.

I'm poorer 'n a church mouse.  
[snake rattle]  
Settle down, settle down, ain't no church mouse.  
I'm just tellin' 'bout a church mouse.  
Hehe, he loves a fuzzy little church mouse [snake  
rattle] . . . Lord, I couldn't live like 'at.  
He's a cold-natured critter.  
Yeah, I cut the toe out of an old sock one time, made  
him a little sweater.  
Didn't work, though, he just kept crawlin' out of it.  
He ain't hardly got no shoulders at all, you know.  
But lord what a neck.  
Got more neck than Audrey Hepburn.

Cactus Pete, Cactus Pete,  
With his pet sidewinder at his feet.  
Out there 'mongst the cacti and mesquite,  
This is the ballad of Lefty and Cactus Pete.

[spoken]  
Hehehe, yeah nearly lost ol' Lefty one time, though.  
He 's out sunnin' himself on that big rock o'er there.  
Yeah, he'd just gorged down two blue-bellied lizards  
and a heelee monster.  
[snake rattle]  
Settle down, settle down, ain't no heelee monster, I'm  
jus' talkin' 'bout a heelee monster.  
Like I said, he 's on that rock o'er there, and a big ol'  
bal' headed eagle just swooped down, snatched 'im  
up, wen' flappin' off with him through the cactus.  
Ol' Lefty, he just squirmed around, looked up at that  
eagle, flashed him that big 'ol pearly-toothed smile . . .  
That eagle dropped him like a hot potato, hehehe.  
Thought he was a lawyer.

Cactus Pete, Cactus Pete,  
With his pet sidewinder at his feet.  
The saga of the West wouldn't be complete  
Without the ballad of Cactus Pete.  
[snake rattle]  
And Lefty.

[spoken]  
Calm down there, boy, they wasn't gonna forget ya.

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