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## Mama Milando

Calvin Claudel

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## LOUISIANA CREOLE FOLK POEMS

## I AM TIRED\*

Full of sunshine is my kitchen bright,  
 My pots and pans filled with light.  
 My great black stove is singing;  
 My little spoons are dancing.

My lover in a corner came to hide.  
 He caught me, kissed me, took me aside.

My kitchen once white is now dark and chilled.  
 All the yard outside with rain is filled.  
 Wood for my stove there's none.  
 My once bright pot is a dirty one.

To Texas land my lover's gone.  
 He left me tired and all alone.

## MAMA MILANDO\*\*

The rain came,  
 The sun went away.  
 Mama Milando in a boat!  
 The frog sang,  
 The toad jumped,  
 Mama Milando in a boat!  
 When she walks  
 Her back end shakes.  
 Ribbons, ribbons, diamonds.  
 When she walks  
 Her back end shakes.  
 Ribbons, ribbons, diamonds.  
 Let me tell you,  
 It's a sight to see  
 Mama Milando in a boat.

\* Translated by permission of the Louisiana State University Press from *Louisiana Creole Dialect*, James F. Broussard, 1942.

\*\* Translated from *Creole Folklore in Phonetic Transcription* (Adams Shelby Holm Trappey. M.A. Thesis, unpublished, Louisiana State University, May 6, 1916. Collection from New Iberia Parish, La.)