



Jackson Purchase Historical  
Society

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Volume 14 | Number 1

Article 15

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6-1986

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### Recommended Citation

(1986) "Ballad of Willie Joe and The Talkin' Woman," *Jackson Purchase Historical Society*: Vol. 14 : No. 1 , Article 15.

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BALLAD OF WILLIE JOE  
and  
THE TALKIN' WOMAN

Alney Norell

When I first come to Piney Ridge,  
A young feller . . . to work on the bridge  
I boarded with a widder-woman  
Name of Sally Ann Lowman.

She set a good table, but lord how she talked!  
She could talk fastern she walked!  
She'd had three husbands, folks all said  
Good ones too . . . but ever' one dead!

Talked 'em to death, the story went round,  
Gabbin' put 'em under . . . six feet in the ground.  
Her words flowing like a river  
Sure stirred-up a man's liver.

She jawed, she prattled . . .  
She gossiped, she tattled.  
She nagged, she scolded . . . givin-out  
From a never-endin' fount.

Now old Mr. Neely, he took me aside:  
"Sally Ann's got a notion to agin be a bride!  
Folks figger you're elected . . . to be number FOUR,  
Well now son, need I say more???"

Light out fer home! Don't look back . . . jest GO!  
A Talkin' Woman don't improve with AGE, Willie Joe!"  
So that's what I done . . . I taken his advice . . .  
(Not havin' to think about it twice!!)

There in the graveyard, now rests number FOUR!  
Sally Ann's a widder, as she was before.  
I feel mighty lucky, I want you to know . . .  
Since the name on the tombstone, **AIN'T** Willie Joe!!