YOUNG BUT DAILY GROWING
BOB DYLAN 1956-1960

by

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A SUMMARY OF RECORDING & CONCERT ACTIVITIES, RELEASES, TAPES & BOOKS.

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1 INTRODUCTION

These are the first years from which we have Bob Dylan recordings. The first recording from 1958 is no more than two school kids playing around with a tape recorder, but interesting, nevertheless. The second recording is questionable and reveals a singer with a voice very much unlike the one we hear just a couple of months later. 1960 was spent mostly in St Paul, rehearsing, as it were, for Greenwich Village.

2 CALENDAR

24 December 1956
Robert Zimmerman, Howard Rutman & Larry Kegan records eight songs at Terlinde Music in St. Paul, Minnesota.

1958
Robert Zimmerman and John Bucklen make a number of home tapes where they talk and sing. Fragment of one of these tapes were included in the BBC documentary about Highway 61.

10 January 1959
Robert Zimmerman performs at the dance following the Hibbing International Falls basketball game.

May 1959
Robert Zimmerman is recorded in Ric Kangas’ home in Hibbing, Minnesota.

January 1960
Dylan starts to perform at the Purple Onion Pizza Parlour in St Paul, Minnesota.

February
Dylan performs regularly with "Spider" John Koerner at the Ten O’Clock Scholar, singing songs like They Called The Wind Maria.

May
A recording is made in Karen Wallace's apartment in St Paul. The tape contains 27 songs and shows a singer with a country voice a la Hank Williams rather than the later nasal Woody Guthrie impersonation. There are however different opinions about the genuineness of this tape. Michael Krogsgaard omits it in his "Master of the Tracks". Clinton Heylin and Glen Dundas accept it as a Dylan recording.

May
Dylan appears regularly on the Purple Onion and The Bastille in St Paul, singing songs like Go Down You Murderers, Sinner Man, House Of The Risin’ Sun and Man Of Constant Sorrow. His first compositions are written including One Eyed Jacks and Greyhound Blues.

Summer
Dylan plays piano in a strip-joint called "The Gilded Garter" in Central City, Colorado. He hangs out at the Denver coffee house “The Exodus”, where he first meets Jesse Fuller.

Early September
Dylan reads "Bound For Glory" by Woody Guthrie.

September
First undisputed and circulating Dylan performance, besides the 1958 home taping, is taped in Dylan's apartment on 15th Avenue South in Minneapolis, a place he shared with High Brown. The Guthrie influence is already very
notable.

Fall     Dylan continues to perform at The Purple Onion and The Bastille in St Paul.

December Dylan leaves St Paul and Minneapolis and goes to Chicago, playing in coffee houses and at student parties. He is now performing almost only Woody Guthrie songs.

3 RECORDINGS

1958     Bob Dylan’s Home in Hibbing Minnesota
May      The apartment of Karen Wallace, St Paul Minnesota. "The St Paul tape"
September Most probably Dylan's apartment on 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis.
           "Minnesota Party Tape"

For details about these tapes please refer to the corresponding session pages in Still On The Road.

4 SONGS 1960

*Blackjack Blues* Rumoured composition.
*Everytime I Hear The Spirit* Rumoured composition.
*Greyhound Blues* Rumoured composition.
*Hey, Little Richard* Appears on the 1958 home tape with John Bucklen.
*One Eyed Jacks* Appears on the St Paul tape from May. Clinton Heylin takes this as evidence for the tape's authenticity. Ten lines from the lyrics are reprinted in Shelton's book, page 54, with Dylan's permission.

*Talkin' Hugh Brown* Appears on the Minnesota Party Tape.

5 SOURCES

**Tim Dunn**  
*I Just Write 'Em As They Come. Annotated Guide to the Writings of Bob Dylan*  

**Glen Dundas**  
*Tangled Up In Tapes — 4th Edition A Recording History of Bob Dylan*  

**Clinton Heylin**  

Clinton Heylin  

Michael Krogsgaard  
Positively Bob Dylan  
Popular Culture, Ink. 1991. 500 pages

6  SUGGESTED READINGS

6.1 General background

Michael Gray  
Song & Dance Man III. The Art Of Bob Dylan  
Cassell 1999. Hardback 918 pages (!!)

Clinton Heylin  
Behind The Shades. A Biography.  

Daniel Kramer  

Anthony Scaduto  

Eric von Schmidt, Jim Rooney  

Robert Shelton  

Howard Sounes  

6.2 Article compilations

Carl Benson (ed)  
The Bob Dylan Companion — Four Decades of Commentary.  

Craig McGregor (ed)  
Bob Dylan. A Retrospective.  
William Morrow 1972

Elizabeth M. Thomson (ed)  
Thin Man 1980

6.3 Selected articles


A Conversation with Tony Glover – by Glen Dundas, On The Tracks #2 (Fall/Winter 1993)

Bill Marinac Interview – by Laurie McCuistion, On The Tracks #8 (Fall 1996)

Bob Dylan's Boyhood Homes in Duluth and Hibbing – The Telegraph 41 (Winter 1991)

Clinton Heylin on The May 1960 St Paul Tape – The Telegraph 40 (Autumn 1991)

David Moton Interview – by Lynda Knudsen, On The Tracks #16 (Spring 1999)

John Bucklen Interview – by Dave Engel, On The Tracks #8 (Fall 1996)


The Wanted Man Interview: Jaharana Romney (aka Bonnie Beecher, the Girl From The North Country) – The Telegraph #36