

Sweet Betsy From Pike (traditional)

A song from the time of the 1849 California Gold Rush

Lyrics by John A. Stone from before 1858.

First collected and published in Carl Sandburg's "American Songbag" in 1927.

"Betsy" originally referred to Ike's rifle

There are many other additional stanzas

Recorded by: Burl Ives for his 1941 debut album, Johnny Cash, Clooney, Tom Paxton, DeShannon, The New Christy Minstrels, Suzy Bugguss, and even *Iggy Pop!*

C **G7** **C** **C**
Now don't you re - member sweet Betsy from Pike
One evening quite early they camped on the plat
They soon reached the desert where Betsy gave out
The Shanghai ran off and the cattle all died
Ike and sweet Betsy got married of course

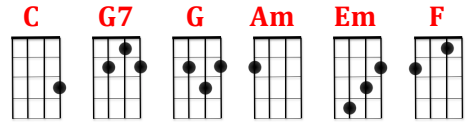
C **Am** **G** **G7**
Who crossed the big mountains with her lover Ike
Down by the road on a green shady flat
Down in the sand she lay rollin' a-bout
The last piece of bacon that mornin' was fried
But Ike gettin' jealous ob - tained a di-vorce

Am **Em** **F** **C**
With two yoke of oxen and a big yeller dog
Where Betsy got tired and lay down to re-pose
While Ike in great tears, looked on in sur-prise
Ike got dis-couraged and Betsy got mad
Betsy well sat-is-fied said with a shout

A **C** **G7** **C**
A tall Shanghai rooster and one spotted hog
And Ike he just gazed on his Pike County rose
Saying "Betsy get up, you'll get sand in your eyes"
The dog wagged his tail and looked wonderfully sad
"Good-bye you big lummoX, I'm glad you backed out"

C **G7** **C**
Hoodle dang fol de di do, hoodie dang fol de day

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 But Ike gettin' jealous ob-tained a di-voice
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 Betsy well sat-is-fied said with a shout
C **G** **C** **C**
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