

Finishing up Borders and Boundaries  
and into The Urban Folksong  
Movement of the 1930s-1960s

November 10, 2016

# Administration

- Listening quiz is Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class
  - Multiple choice format; you will need a purple scantron answer sheet and No. 2 pencils
- Listening examples will be drawn from the pieces we covered in class during Weeks 6-8 (through Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>) that are on Canvas
  - See lecture slides for these pieces
  - More details about the quiz next week
- I will post a study guide to the course website by the end of the day (Monday, 11/14)

- Extra credit performance/presentation opportunity guidelines posted to Canvas, in Assignments
- Note deadlines
  - Sun., 12/4 at 11:59 p.m. for uploading videos
  - For those who do not have access to technology to upload a video:
    - Must email Will or Christina if you plan to give a live performance or presentation in class by Wed., 11/23
  - We will let you know by Wednesday, 11/30 the day and approximate time for which you are scheduled
    - Live presentations/performances will be the week of 12/5 and as early as Monday, 12/5

# For today...

- Finishing thinking about how people negotiate borders and boundaries physically, mentally, and culturally

— *Son Jarocho*

- Start to think about folk music revival(s) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

# Negotiating boundaries through fandango at the border



# YouTube Video: V Fandango Fronterizo

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p40wRTk3aM>
- To notice:
  - How are people participating in this *fandango*?
  - How is the border very real and also transcended?

# Wrapping up from yesterday...

- Continuing to think about how people negotiate borders and boundaries physically, mentally, and culturally
  - Transcending place, including present-day national boundaries
- Mariachi and *Son Jarocho*
- *Fandango*

## Turning to Part III: Folk Music Revivals and Cultural Politics

- What does “revival” mean?
  - Implies rebirth, reinvigoration, usually of something that has gone into decline, nearly died out, or died out
  - Can revival also include introduction or reintroduction into a new context?



# More questions for today and next week:

- Was American folk music actually revived?
  - “Revived” in what sense?
  - Who was involved in the urban folksong movement in the 1930s-1960s and what were they reviving?
  - What were their motivations?

# Some Agents

- Folklorists and song collectors
  - E.g. Alan Lomax (1915-2002; right)
- Performers
  - As sources, collectors, activists
  - E.g., Leadbelly and Woody Guthrie
    - As folk musicians, sources of inspiration



# Huddie Ledbetter

aka Lead Belly or Leadbelly (b. 1880s-1949)

- 1930s “discovered” and recorded by John and Alan Lomax in a prison in the South
  - (John Lomax was Alan’s father)
- Moved to New York in the mid-1930s
- Performed at various festivals and concerts
- Sang and played guitar
  - Also played other instruments such as accordion and piano



# “Goodnight Irene” (Canvas Unit 17)



Chorus:

Irene goodnight,  
Irene goodnight,  
Goodnight Irene, goodnight Irene  
I'll see [I get?] you in my dreams

Verse 1

Sometimes I live in the country  
Sometimes I live in town  
Sometimes I has a great notion  
To jump in [into?] the river and drown

Chorus

Verse 2

Stop your rambling, and stop gambling  
Stop [Quit?] staying out late at night  
Go home to your wife and your family  
Stay home [Sit down?] by the fireside bright

Chorus



- Excerpt from  
*American Roots Music*, Episode 2
- (On reserve at the Music Library Listening Center; Videodisc DVD 82)

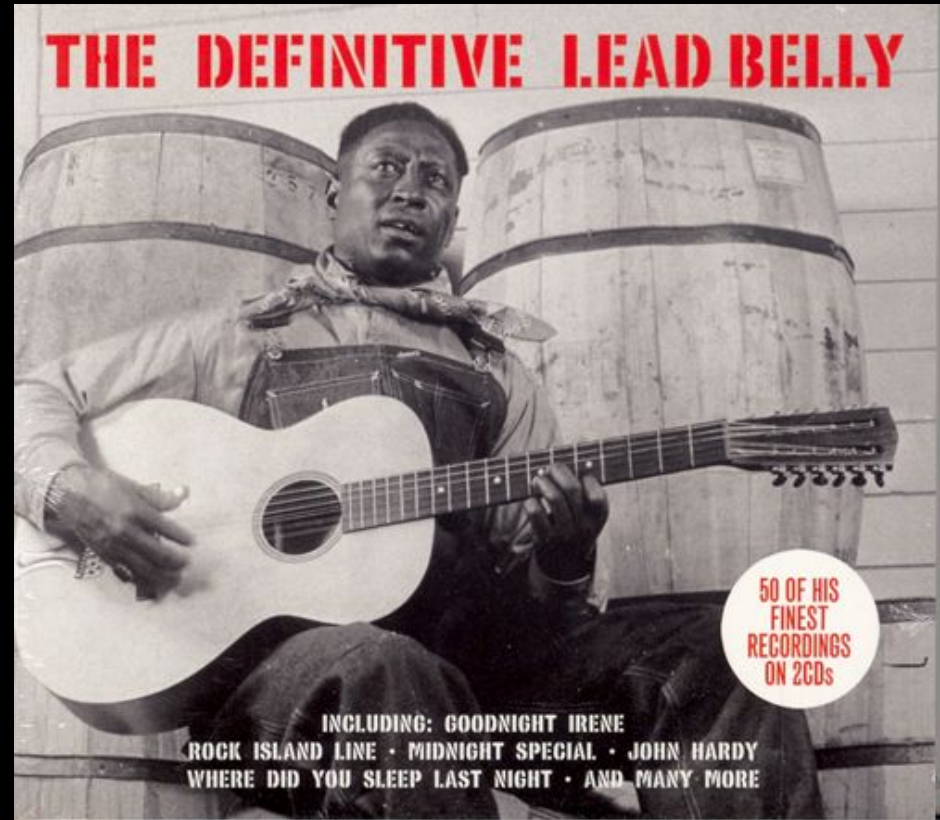
# “Where Did You Sleep Last Night” (Canvas Unit 16)

(1944 recording of  
Leadbelly)

On album *The Definitive  
Leadbelly* (2008)

\*Song also known as “In the  
Pines” and “Black Girl”

Traditional American  
folksong – dates to at least  
1870s

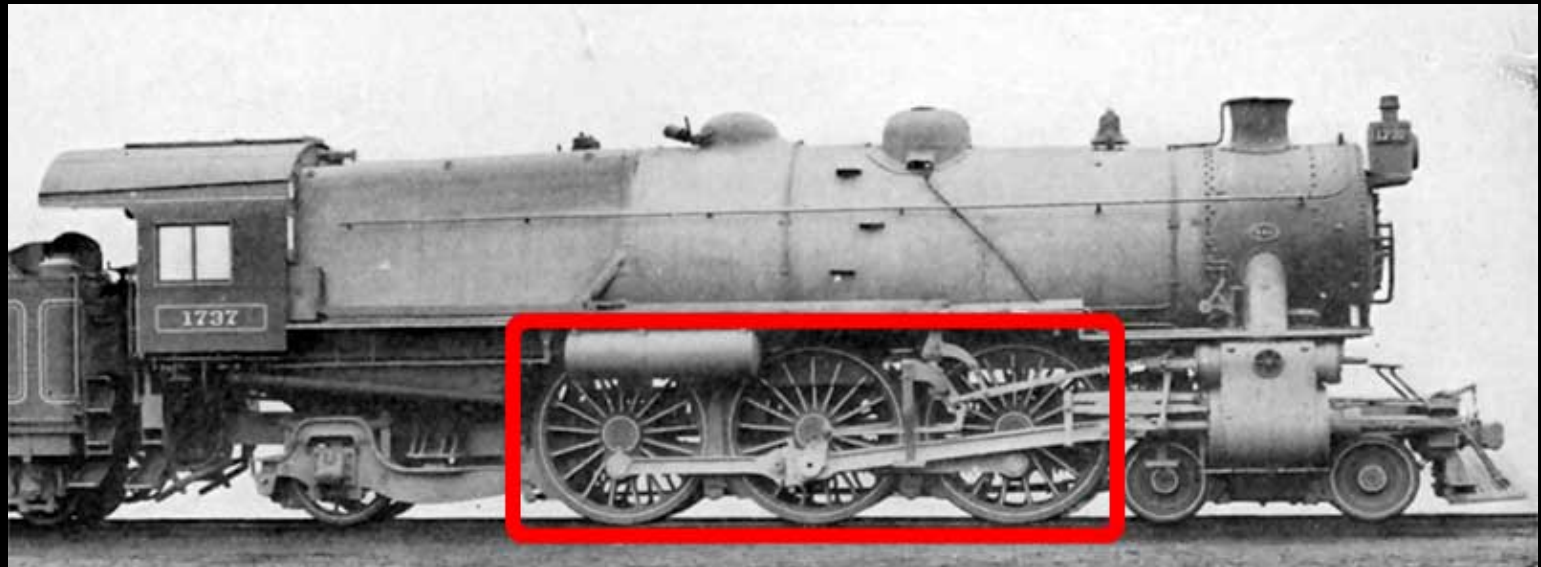


My girl, my girl, don't lie to me  
Tell me where did you sleep last night  
In the pines, in the pines, where the sun don't ever  
shine  
I would shiver the whole night through

My girl, my girl, where will you go  
I'm going where the cold wind blows  
In the pines, in the pines, where the sun don't ever  
shine  
I would shiver the whole night through

My girl, my girl, don't you lie to me  
Tell me where did you sleep last night  
In the pines, in the pines, where the sun don't ever shine  
I would shiver the whole night through

My husband was a hardworking man  
Killed a mile and a half from here  
His head was found in a driving wheel  
And his body hasn't ever been found





My girl, my girl, don't you lie to me  
Tell me where did you sleep last night  
In the pines, in the pines, where the sun don't  
ever shine  
I would shiver the whole night through

# “Where Did You Sleep Last Night”

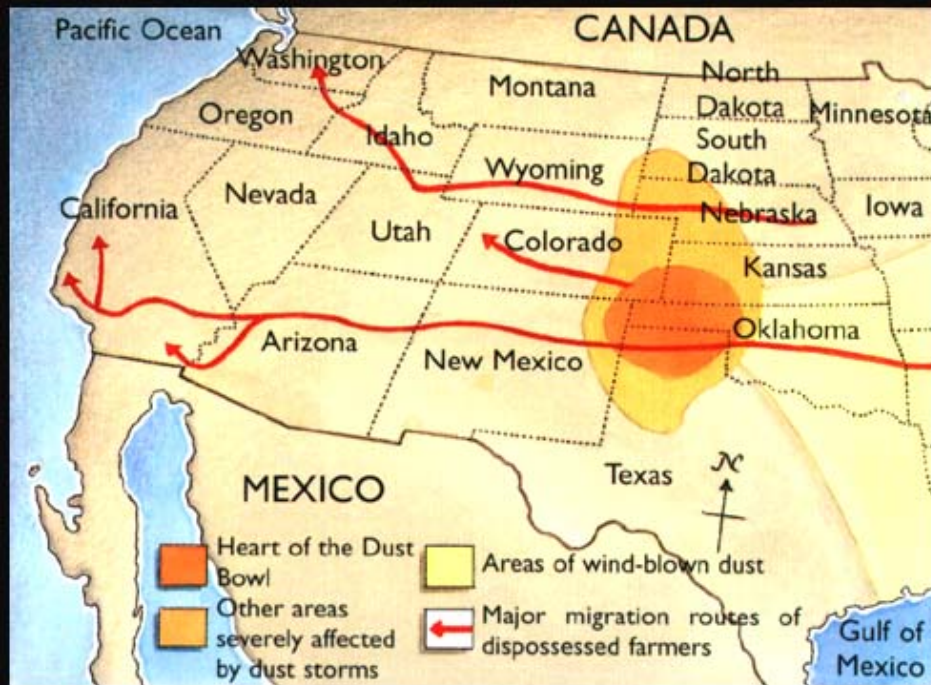
- Performed by the band Nirvana in 1993  
(on album *MTV Unplugged in New York*, released in 1994)
- YouTube video:
  - Nirvana - Where did you sleep last night - Unplugged in new york HD !
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOZKz\\_sPM6U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOZKz_sPM6U)
- Note what Kurt Cobain (lead singer and guitarist of the band Nirvana) says about Leadbelly



# Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)



- Fled the Dust Bowl in the 1930s





- On radio programs in California
- In New York City in the 1940s
- Continued to move quite a bit over the course of his life
- “Common man” image
- Influential folk hero for many younger singers



To be continued...