

Laughter Like A Shield

Words & Music: Pat Drummond (3.10)

For Brian and Mary O'Connell. Dateline... Bullarah, NSW

This story was gathered from The Bullara Bush Expo, an uproarious mixture of fete, sheep dog trials, pyrotechnics and bush humour, which is held on Father's Day each year at a Primary School in North Western NSW. Perhaps because the land itself is so hard, Australians have always placed great stock in the ability to laugh. Our humour, much of it self effacing, has often made the unacceptable, at least survivable. This song is for Brian and Mary, two of the founders of the B.B.E., whose indomitable sense of humour remains not only a personal strength but a valuable community asset; and who reminded me, in my need, of the healing power of laughter.

I stepped out on the highway in the middle of the night

I heard ringing from the homestead light

Rolling like thunder out over the field

It was Laughter like a shield

Chorus: Laughter like a shield

hearts as strong as steel

laughter in the face of the heartaches they feel

Love's never easy but hearts may be healed

under Laughter like a shield

Up in the backblocks to the West of Moree

Where the hard times grow high as the ears on the wheat

There's a green-eyed girl with her heart concealed

under Laughter like a shield

Her husband is a good man but times have been tough

and he made some decisions that turned out rough

Back a few seasons when the wool price went down

They had to shoot their savings and lay them in the ground

Chorus:

**And I know there's times they get downhearted
she holds him close until that time is past
Says they'll always be together
And they probably will will whilever
they remember how to make each other laugh**

Instrumental

**For all those whose feel that their life is an ordeal
of broken promises and whispered appeals
Remember that the Joker is somewhere in the deal
Carrying Laughter like a shield**

**And it's Laughter like a shield
That holds me to this wheel
laughter in the face of the fear that I feel
Seeking salvation and hoping to be healed
under Laughter like a shield**