

If a Man Is A Man

Words & Music: Pat Drummond (4.20)

For Robert, Peter and Ian Scott. Dateline... Dubbo, NSW

In the Australian vernacular, the term 'True Blue' bears on the concept of integrity; while the expression 'Fair Dinkum' is most often used in relation to the virtue of honesty. While not synonymous, both terms are closely interrelated and would, by all accounts, have been applicable to Bob Scott. In the area around Wellington, he was renowned as a man whose word was his bond. The presentation of The Robert Scott Memorial Award at The Zoo '92 Convention, in Dubbo last year, was testament to the regard in which he was held by his community. This song is about honesty and integrity; two old fashioned virtues which played a major part in the development of our national character and which, sadly, have been portrayed in recent years as the province of the naive and the idealistic. Perhaps it's time we realised that they are, in fact, the essential glue which binds all business and social contracts. Without them, individuals, organisations and governments face a limited future.

Old Robert Scott had hands that were hard
from the years spent working in the Wellington yard
Doing deals over derelect cars
for the parts that he bought and sold
And the lines in his hands were the long highways
ground dark by the ghosts of the old FJs
but the grease in that handshake was worth it's weight in Gold

Chorus: "If a man is a man his word is his bond
It's the land that his life's built on
On a handshake a deal is done
and he will honour his word
and the worth of his hand
If a man is a man"

Now the two Scott boys were kids I'm told
when the family business up in Wellington sold
Bob did the deal on a handshake and sealed in his way
Then he was offered more money just to change his mind
there was nothing put to paper; nothing ever signed
Some said he was crazy but they heard that old man say

Chorus:

**"And I've spent thirty odd years building something up here
Something that's solid and strong
and if you think that I'm just talking business
boys... you're wrong.
For a man takes pride in what's inside himself
and I'll tell you son,
There's not enough money in this whole damn
to buy it back once it's gone"**

Instrumental

**Now we live in a world full of women and men
who can twist the truth with the point of a pen
and change it to suit themselves when they can
and Bob is dead and gone
But his sons told that story on a Saturday night
to a room full of hard-nosed business types
and I thought "Bob, you did alright
when you handed that handshake on"**

Chorus: