

# OLD RAGS & BONES

guitar  
accompaniment  
in key of C

crochet = 75

Old rags & bones please old rags & bones just give me all yer old rags & bones. Old rags & bones please

old rags & bones, just give me all yer old rags & bones. I'll swap them for a spinning {}  
now bones we burn to ashes to  
yes give me all the metal and

paper windmill toy that kiddies love to run with it gives them hours\_\_\_ of joy ba-  
make yer china fine and linen goes for pa per to write yer friends\_\_\_ a line. the  
junk yer need no more and should I pass to mor row well leave it by\_\_\_ the door and

loons! got in dozens to make me cart so gay {} all\_\_\_ for the chil\_\_ dren so they can sport & play  
steel it gets all melted in furna-ces so hot then cast a-gain in found-a-ries to make yer cookin pot  
if it is a bucket put water in of course {} for\_\_ thirsty work it is for Bess me old carthorse

For strict authenticity, the gap in the chorus should be filled by the noise of a battered old brass band trumpet, just like Cresby remembers from his youth, played with maximum noise and penetration, and a total lack of tune or key ! At the time of writing the song, a rag & bone man was spotted in Oxford complete with the obligatory horse, cart and virtually indecipherable call of "AG BO". Calls varied from "Old Rags & Bones" to a permutation of just the vowels and an assortment of gargles, hence the use of trumpet or loud bell. In the fifties R & B men tended to arrive in a welter of noise plus all the kids of the neighbourhood in convoy. The carts were decked in balloons, paper windmills and plastic bags each with a single fish. Paper by then had given way to sheets of plastic, and you had to find a lot of tat to get that windmill..... fish were all but unattainable.

Rags were sorted and linen sold on to papermills, other fibres were used in industry to swab down lathes and milling machines etc. In Victorian times bones were bought for a penny or so for 2lb and sold to the pottery industry where it was calcined, that is heated until all the combustible material was removed. The white residue is a form of calcium carbonate that lowered the melting point of porcelain clay, hence they called it bone china.

By the fifties bones were not normally traded by R & B men.

