

COUNTRY MUSIC

FLOYD COLLINS BALLADS

PIANO ROLLS

SONG BACKGROUND for First Jenkins Ballad (See First Section – Early 1925 to 1950)



The perforations on a piano roll represent note control data. Air is pumped into the piano by the pedals operated by the player; this can also be done electrically. This air passes through the perforations as the roll turns and is read by the tracker bar which activates the keyboard mechanically. The player piano shown here is a Francis Bacon piano, made by one of the longest running piano builders in America.

The piano rolls of the Jenkins first ballad usually only provide 4 or 5 stanzas, printed on the right-hand side of the roll next to the perforations, which activate the mechanical piano.

Some of these versions only change one or two words of the original lyrics. The Meloart roll adheres to all the original lyrics as written.

The list of piano roll companies published in *Metronome* magazine in 1933 has all, except four of those listed below, plus several others that may someday prove to have issued a Floyd Collins piano roll. Already in 1933 Cannonized Music, Mel-O-Art Roll Company, Pianostyle, Rose Valley Company (Ideal), U.S. Music Company, and Vocalstyle were all extinct companies. (Anon. 1933)

Ref: Anon. 1933, Are Rolls and Records Ended? *Metronome*, v. 49, n. 6, June 1933, p. 8 (Reprinted in *JEMF Quarterly*, v. IX, pt. 4, Winter 1973, n. 32, p. 159

Piano Rolls, [Wikipedia](#)

Player Pianos, [Wikipedia](#)

In alphabetical order by artist

THE DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk Brockman

Perf: Carl ELLIS

Prod. Co: The Rose Valley Co.; Philadelphia, PA

Rec. Date:

Label: Ideal 03287

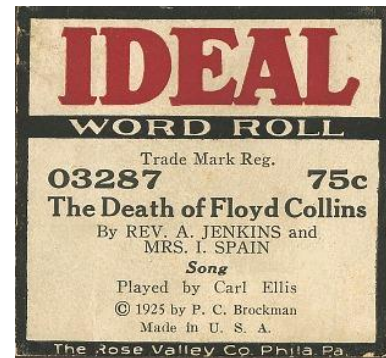
Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 50-60

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, 3, 8, & 9

Notes: Stanza 1, verse 4 becomes – A lad we all know well

Stanza 3, verse 4 becomes – In an awful dream I've had

Stanza 9, verse 3 becomes – And give your heart to Jesus



CY-OT-FCP2 United States 1925

THE DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Inc.

Perf: John HAINES

Prod. Co:

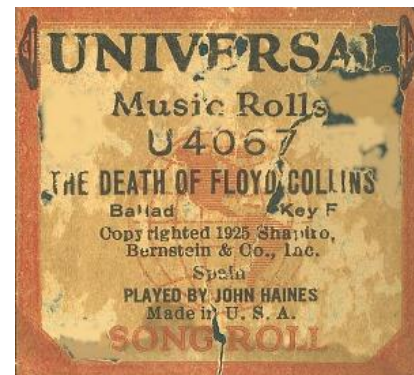
Rec. Date:

Label: Universal U4067

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 80 – Key F

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, & 3

Notes: The piano here adds an intro plus a more embroidered flourishes to the tune than most piano roll versions.



CY-OT-FCP3 United States 1925

THE DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: P. C. Brockman

Perf: B. G. HOWARD

Prod. Co:

Rec. Date:

Label: Pianostyle 26099

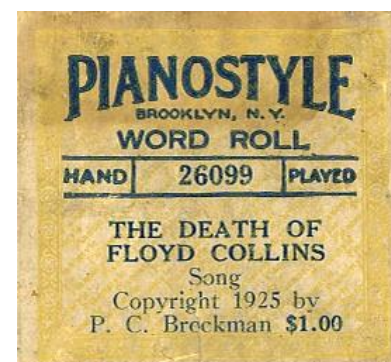
Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 85

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, & 9

Notes: This version has more grace notes on piano and only includes three of the original stanzas.

Stanza 1, verse 4 becomes – A lad we all know well

Stanza 9, verse 3 becomes – And give your heart to Jesus



CY-OT-FCP4 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: Herbert JONES

Prod. Co:

Label: Melodee 47137

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 80

Stanzas Printed:

Notes:

CY-OT-FCP5 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: Joshua JONES

Prod. Co: Vocalstyle Rolls

Rec. Date: Oct. 1925

Label: Vocal Style 13406

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 80-90

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9

Notes: This is the most rapid version, which also manages to fit in all 9 original stanzas.

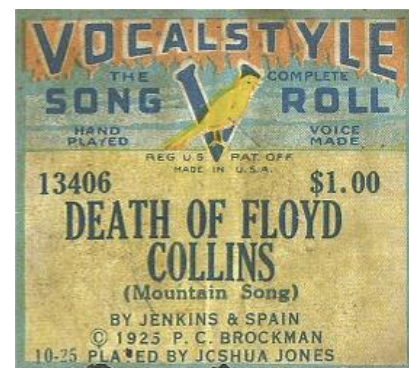
Stanza 1, verse 4 becomes – A lad we all know well

Stanza 3, verse 4 becomes – In an awful dream I've had

Stanza 7, verse 4 becomes – That stood within their way

Stanza 9, verse 3 becomes – And give your heart to Jesus

Ref: Death of Floyd Collins, Joshua Jones, Scanned Piano Rolls Batch 04 – Tune List, pianola.co.nz



CY-OT-FCP6 United States 1925

THE DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

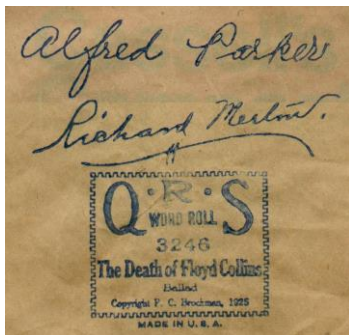
Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: Richard MERTON

& Alfred PARKER

Prod. Co: Q.R.S. Co.; Long Island City, NY

Rec. Date:



Label: Q.R.S. 3246

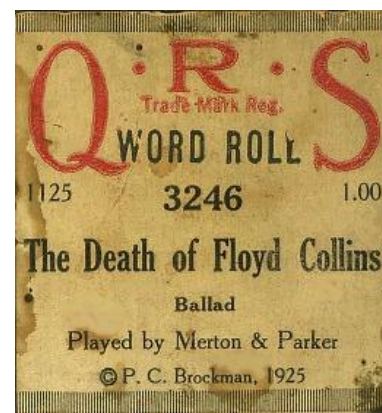
Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 80

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, 3, & 9

Notes: The printed lyrics for stanza 9, verse 3 become – "And give your heart to Jesus."

Founded in 1900, Q.R.S. was in 1985 the oldest surviving maker of player piano rolls in the U.S. During the boom period in the 1920s sales were averaging 10 million a year. "Q.R.S." stands for "Quality, Reliability and Service."

The signatures of the two artists on the lead tab of the Q.R.S. piano roll is shown here.



CY-OT-FCP7 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Shapiro, Bernstein & Co. Inc.

Perf: Nell MORRISON

Prod. Co:

Rec. Date:

1. Original Piano Roll:

Capitol 1367

2. Reissue on Budget Label:

Supertone 5673

Dist: Sears, Roebuck & Co.

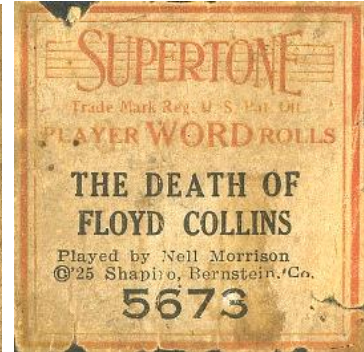
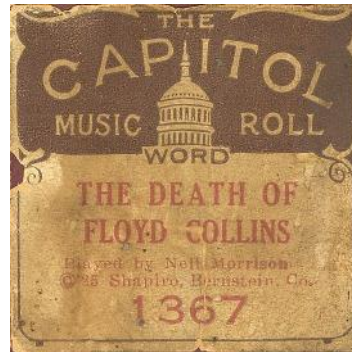
Spec: (Nos. 1 & 2) 11" scroll

Tempo: (No.1) 70 & (No. 2) 80

Stanzas Printed: 1, 3, 4, 5, & 9

Notes: The printed lyrics for stanza 9, verse 3 become – "And give your heart to Jesus."

The Capitol and Supertone rolls were closely compared through the first two stanzas and the two rolls were found to be identical. The only slight difference is the tempo indicated for each.



CY-OT-FCP8 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: Sam A. PERRY

Prod. Co:

Label: Connorized 7928

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 80

Stanzas Printed:

Notes: Never seen or heard.

Ref: Snyder, Dean 2010, eMail dated April 6, 2010

CY-OT-FCP9 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: SHERWIN & STEINER

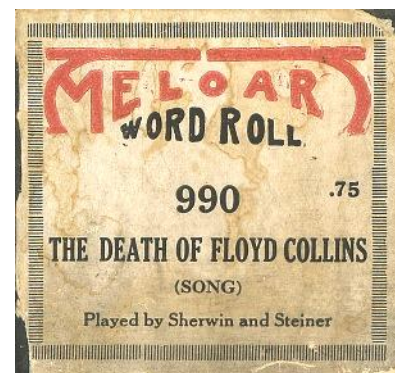
Prod. Co:

Label: Meloart 990

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 65

Stanzas Printed: 1, 3, 7, 8, & 9

Notes: All the lyrics of the original published text. The paper used here is quite fragile.



CY-OT-FCP10 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: (Anonymous)

Prod. Co:

Label: Imperial X5926

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 70

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, 3, & 9

Notes: Stanza 1, verse 4 becomes – A lad we all know well
Stanza 3, verse 4 becomes – In an awful dream I've had
Stanza 9, verse 3 becomes – And give your heart to Jesus



CY-OT-FCP11 United States 1925

DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

Comp: Andrew JENKINS

Mus. Annotation: Irene SPAIN

Rts: Polk C. Brockman

Perf: (Anonymous)

Prod. Co:

Rec. Date: (?) Nov. 1925

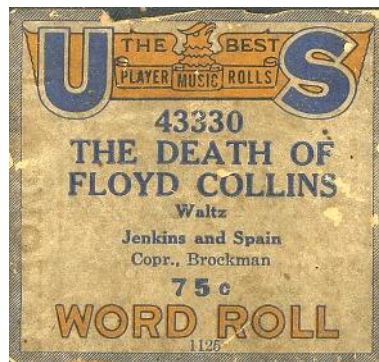
Label: United States 43330

Spec: 11" scroll Tempo: 80

Stanzas Printed: 1, 2, Bridge, 3, 6, 8, & 9

Notes: This one includes a half-stanza musical intro and a bridge. On the roll the short bridge is called an "Inter."

The printed lyrics for stanza 9, verse 3 become – "And give your heart to Jesus."



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