

# COUNTRY MUSIC

## FLOYD COLLINS BALLADS

### PIANO ROLLS

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#### 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](#)

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**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

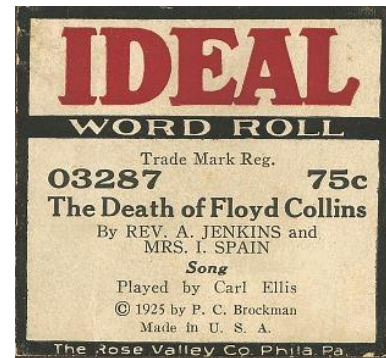
**Spec:** 11" scroll Tempo: 50-60

**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



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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.



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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

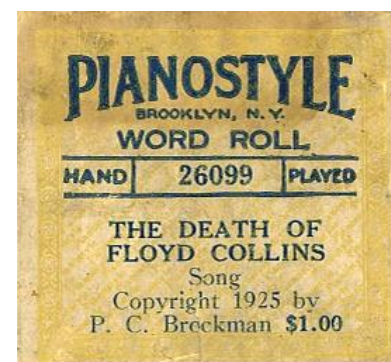
**Spec:** 11" scroll Tempo: 85

**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



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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:**

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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.

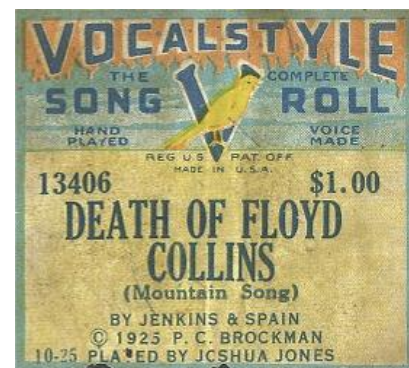
Stanza 1, verse 4 becomes – A lad we all know well

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](http://pianola.co.nz)



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CY-OT-FCP6 United States 1925

## THE DEATH OF FLOYD COLLINS

Folk – Ballad – Instrumental

**Comp:** Andrew JENKINS

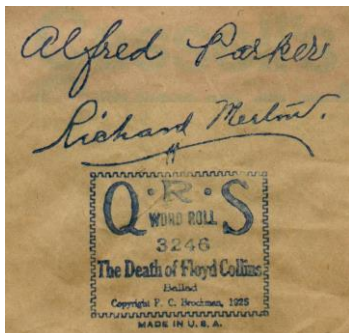
**Mus. Annotation:** Irene SPAIN

**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

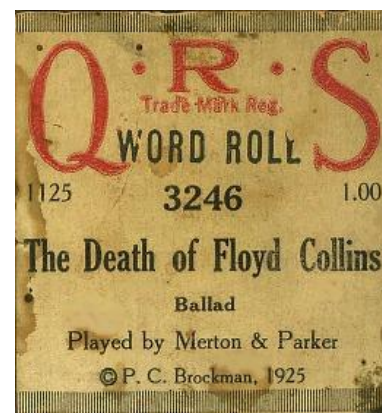
**Spec:** 11" scroll Tempo: 80

**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

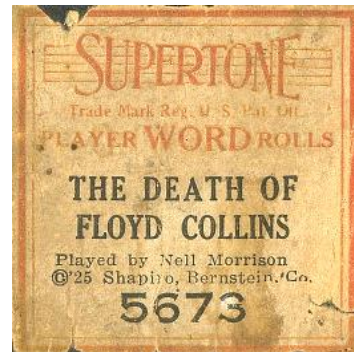
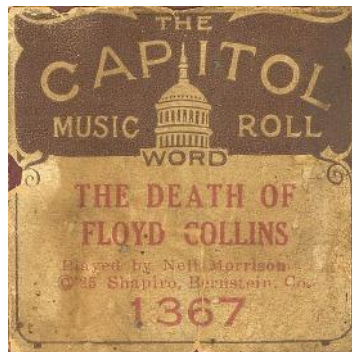
Tempo: (No.1) 70 & (No. 2) 80

**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.

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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

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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

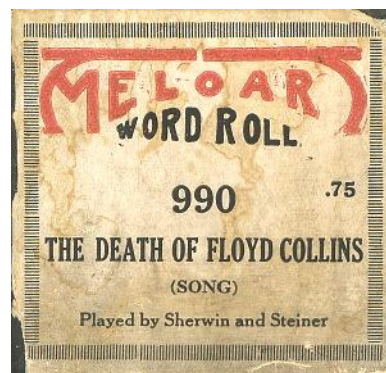
**Prod. Co:**

**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.



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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)

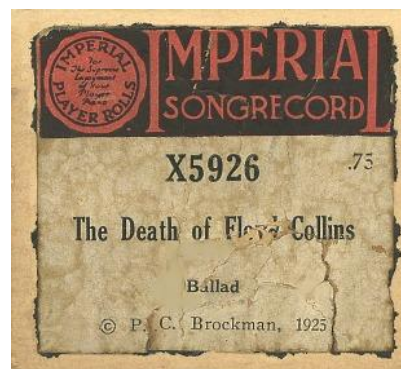
**Prod. Co:**

**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



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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

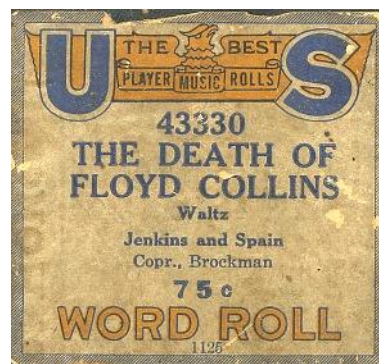
**Label:** United States 43330

**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."



[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)