

Blues Chase Up A Rabbit

(a.k.a. "Blues Jumped A Rabbit", "Rabbit Blues", "Jackrabbit Blues",
"Cool Colorado" & "Rabbit-Foot Blues")

Words & Music:
Traditional American

Most people know this from either the 1960s Judy Henske version from her 1964 album "High Flying Bird" or from the WWI-era Blind Lemon Jefferson recording (which refers to wartime shortages). Both are given here. There are many, many more covers & variations that go back to the early 1900s but none that give a "definitive" songwriter.

1. Judy Henske version:

When the blues chase up a rabbit,
Little rabbit run one solid mile.
Poor little rabbit cry like a newborn child.

'Way out in cool [*alt: "cruel"*] Colorado
Where the lonesome hobo squall.
I chase my baby up cruel Colorado's wall.

I wish I was a headlight
On some lonesome southbound train
I'd follow you baby, wouldn't be back again

Some like black or yellow, others white or tan.
I love my baby,
She loves another man.

When the blues chase up a rabbit
Little rabbit run one solid mile
Poor little rabbit cry like a newborn child

2. Blind Lemon Jefferson version:

*Blind Lemon Jefferson's version is "Rabbit Foot Blues," recorded about December, 1926.
Verses 4-6 refer to World War I rationing and fighting.*

G G7
Blues jumped a rabbit and he ran a solid mile.
C7 G
Blues jumped a rabbit, and he ran a solid mile.
C7 G C7 D7
The rabbit sat down and cried just like a little child.

Well, it seem like you're hungry, why don't you come and lunch with me?
Well, it seem like you're hungry, why don't you come and lunch with me?
I'm gonna stop these married-lookin' wimmin from worryin' me.

I have Uneeda biscuits and a half a pint of gin.
I have Uneeda biscuits and a half a pint of gin.
The gin is mighty fine, them biscuits is a little too thin.

Baby, tell me something about meatless and wheatless days.
Baby, tell me something about meatless and wheatless days.
This not being my home, I don't think I should stay.

Well, I cried for flour; meat, I declare was gone.
Well, I cried for flour; meat, I declare was gone.
People feed me cornbread, I just can't stick around home.

Got a knapsack, baby, and I'm gonna get a submarine.
Got a knapsack, baby, and I'm gonna get a submarine.
Gonna get that Kaiser by 19 hundred 17.