

# Frank Ruck – Americana Wandering

## Kentucky Ridge

Track 1

Kentucky Ridge, we'll cross you in the morning  
Leaving Hazard and its troubles far behind  
Trailers hitched, packed up, our minds are soaring  
Dreaming of a place that's sweet and kind

I was born to a coal mine working family  
Forty years ago last May  
Like my daddy and his kin before him  
Lived my life digging every day

Old times change to new times  
Hazard is changing, too  
Old roads change to new roads  
We'll find our way that's true

Last year the Teco mine shut down completely  
Just like the others did in the years before  
Old jobs change to new jobs not our choosing  
It's just luck I found an open door.

Some I know, still work down in the coal mines  
Just a few jobs remain  
They're on the old road to Hazard  
They can't find another way

The jobs are gone, few are left for taking  
Blue Diamond Mine and Cumberland site remain  
In the town they only offer training  
In four walls nothing seems the same

Many years living on the hillside  
Gives us a sense of hope  
Follow us to the sunrise  
And you can cross Kentucky Ridge

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## Cheatin'

Track 2

When I am out of town and there's no one else around  
You are home alone that's what you tell me on the phone  
The old friend from the old town keeps hangin' round and round  
Is he just a friend or more than just a friend?

Cheatin' you're not alone  
Cheatin' when I'm not at home  
Cheatin' things unknown  
Any time you can  
Cheatin' you're messing 'round  
Cheatin' in the background  
Cheatin' I hear the sound  
Of another man

I don't have to guess, I'm feeling all the stress  
The guest room's a mess and we ain't had a guest  
I see him driving by, I see him draw your eye  
Is he just a friend, or more than just a friend?

Is our love so cold, the good times grow so old  
Should I be so bold, to end this fantasy  
How do these things end, I guess it all depends  
If we can be friends, or more than just friends

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## The Fields of New Jersey

Track 4

Growing up in Antrim has a quiet charm  
As I grew I found I had no interest in the farm  
I left my home at twenty-one to find a better way  
The long journey had begun to Amerikay

We landed in the New York port, I headed west to find  
Employment of any sort with profit on my mind  
I met a girl from county Cork, "Northie" she called and ran  
It would not be proper to see an Antrim man

Funny how a man can travel far across the sea  
To find a girl from Cork with a name like Kayleigh  
Down a winding path, cross the open sea  
To find a girl at last in the fields of New Jersey

For a time she stayed away, it didn't end that way  
In the new land, time will tell and for me she fell  
We courted for a year or more through Jersey sun and snow  
We agreed to marry, to Ireland we would go

We sailed back to New Jersey to a farm of our own  
The long journey at an end, a new country home  
To work the fields and grow the crops each day under the sun  
Soon there was a family with a daughter and a son

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## Easy Friday Evening

Track 6

To see my lady in a simple light  
Sneakers and jeans on a Friday night  
Happy as I am to stay at home  
And rest here from the week alone  
With me

The moon pulls dusk over the horizon  
The evening feels so fine  
People hurry by our window  
To catch their weekend time

And then at night as we lie together  
In the quiet I remember  
The week just past with all its heat  
Happy here we fall asleep

While the stars spin above us  
We're turning here below  
There's just the air between us  
And words spoke soft and low

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## Commitment Dread

Track 7

We were sitting on the couch, watching the fights  
Time flew by, I drifted off, it was late at night  
She was talking while I slept, I nodded like I knew  
Now she's moving in, and I don't know what to do

You know I can feel the fear, it's all in my head  
It hits me when I'm sitting here, Oh Commitment Dread  
I always take the easy path, I go where I'm led  
In my mind I see a flash, Oh Commitment Dread

Walking around the streets at night, thinking of the time  
Stare into the empty void, no answers there to find  
Drifting through so many nights, the years have not been kind  
Maybe I should give it up, it's just this life of mine

Friends all say, "Just relax, you'll see the better side"  
Looking through this tiny house, no places here to hide  
Time is up, the days are gone, there's no way to decide  
Buckle up it's time to start this roller coaster ride

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## Summer Shadow

Track 8

Summer sun is feeling free, while driving in our cars  
Spent warm nights on open fields, looking at the stars  
Playing music on the porch, while crickets sing their song  
Watching sunset on the beach, the days were so long

The angle of the shadow shows me that Summer's passing  
Will it really end in just a week or two?  
I think of the days gone by, of Fall and other places  
And the things we'll do as leaves begin to fall

Driving down the highway to a place we've never been  
We found a trail to walk on, the hot sun burnt our skin  
We walked all day along the trail, we laughed without a care  
Found a castle in the clouds in cool mountain air

Now at night I feel a breeze, it's cool flowing through  
I close the door against the cold, seasons change it's true  
I see the stars in longer nights, no more cricket song  
The days are warm, the nights are cool, I know that Summer's gone

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## Alien Vacation Spot

Track 9

It's not too cold, it's not too hot  
It makes this place a great vacation spot  
Perched at the edge of the Milky Way  
A perfect place to get away  
A blue gem seen from far away  
We look at them they come our way  
So sit on the beach enjoy the sun  
Everyone can have some fun  
Down here

They're here before our eyes  
They peer through their disguise  
They talk with quiet speech  
They walk through crowded streets  
Alone

It's time to play, come they must  
For time away from galactic dust  
Sit on the beach where they land  
Enjoying the sun, sea and sand  
The natives dance and beat their drums  
With ignorance of where they're from  
If natives knew they'd find a way  
To wipe them out, if they stay  
Down here

They're here for years, we do not know  
They just appear, then they go  
Hide behind a smiling mask  
Blending in with shadows cast  
Go back home to the stars  
Happy now after hopping bars  
So come on along enjoy the sun  
Everyone can have some fun  
Down here

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## Ten O'clock Bus

Track 11

My baby left me, on the ten o'clock bus  
My baby left me, on the ten o'clock bus  
She said she's going, she's had enough of us

She didn't look back at me, walking out the door  
She didn't look back at me, walking out the door  
I can tell by her walk, she won't be back no more

I'm waiting for her call, a call that never came  
I'm waiting for her call, a call that never came  
I know she's really gone, nothin' will be the same

You know she's so good, good as she can be  
You know she's so good, good as she can be  
I know I'll never find, a girl that good to me

My baby left me, she's not comin' back  
My baby left me, she's not comin' back  
I know I'm to blame, it's a natural fact



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## Joshua Slocum's Song

Track 12

Roll away your steamer ships  
With your boiler your smoke and your noise  
I'm sailing away with the wind today  
And I'll leave you behind in the breeze

Years ago when the river was quiet  
You could hear what your neighbors were sayin'  
With the birds of the land, it's where I began  
But I left for the ways of the sea

Got work and grew to a man  
But now there's only work on the steamers  
Smoke and soot choke your land  
And the times change so quickly with a turn of your hand  
So it's rather than change, I'll sail away

With the seeds of adversity about to bear fruit  
I crossed the Pacific Ocean  
When I landed Far East I had nowhere to go  
So I left for the world I would see.