**The Christmas Coat**  
An old boy was fumblin around one day  
In a women’s clothing store  
He’d found his wife a Christmas coat  
And was headed for the door  
When he bumped into a little boy  
That looked like he was lost  
And he said “Mister can you help me  
Find out how much something costs?  
Here it is almost bChristmas  
And the nights areb gettin cold  
Winter time is on us  
And my mom don’t have a coat  
I’ve been workin for the neighbors  
And saving for a time”  
And in his tiny outstretched hand  
Was a dollar and a dime  
His gaze went from that big eyed boy  
To that pretty Christmas coat  
And he finally cleared away the lump  
That had gathered in his throat  
He said “Son  
that’s just what this coat costs  
We’re lucky that we found ‘er”  
And he turned around and gave a wink  
To the lady at the counter  
She put it in a pretty box  
And wrapped it up just so  
And went off in the back  
And found a big red Christmas bow  
He said “ I thank you for your help sir  
And I kindly thank you ma’am  
I hope y’all are gonna have a big Christmas  
Cause now I know I am”  
Well the old boy walked home busted  
Except for the dollar and the dime  
Thinkin he’d just have to buy  
The coat another time  
He told his wife that Christmas this year  
Wouldn’t be much fun  
And he gently took her in his arms  
And told her what he’d done  
She said “ why you old softie  
I wouldn’t trade you for a farm  
I’ve got two or three old coats  
And your love to keep me warm “  
She put that money in a matchbox  
And placed it beneath their tree  
And said “that is the grandest gift  
You’ve ever given me”  
The years went by like years will do  
When people are in love  
Their marriage was a golden bond  
That was forged by God above  
Then one day came some bitter news  
That filled his heart with fright  
The doctor told the old man’s wife  
That she was going to lose her sight  
He said “there’s an operation we can do  
But it puts me on the spot  
Cause it’s a quite complex procedure  
And it’s going to cost a lot”  
The old man said “doctor I’m a failure  
I’ve made no preparation  
We don’t have the money  
For that kind of an operation “  
The doctor got the strangest look  
And he sat there for a while  
And then he slowly nodded  
And he broke out in a smile  
He said “ why sir you can’t fool me  
You’re a very wealthy man  
You long ago invested  
In the world’s best savings plan  
I’ll see she gets the best of care  
She’s going to be just fine  
And the total cost to you old friend  
Is a dollar and a dime”  
The old man stared in disbelief  
Then he recognized that smile  
The one he’d seen those years ago  
On a loving thoughtful child  
He said “what you gave to me that day  
Was more than just a coat  
You gave me the gift of giving  
And you gave my mother hope  
My mother’d been mistreated  
Neglected and abused  
But she gave life just one more chance  
And it was all because of you  
Now every year she takes that coat  
And lays it beneath our tree  
It represents to us the things  
That Christmas ought to be  
She says that when we leave this world  
For a better home someday  
The only things that we’ll take with us  
Are the things we gave away “