

**LITTLE DID WE KNOW:
The murders of Stringbean and Estelle**
(Film Treatment by Gary Revel)

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Stringbean started playing banjo, singing and writing songs as a child and soon landed a spot on a local radio station sharing his talent with his community. He went on to perform his homespun talents singing and playing, doing comedy, for millions culminating with being a regular on the Grand Ole Opry and the Hee Haw television show with Buck Owens, Roy Clark, Grandpa Jones and many more. He became a favorite of many millions of Americans as well as fans around the world.

He married Estelle during the course of his success and remained married to her until their end.

Stringbean and Estelle were murdered because they had money. Known as an easy touch for a handout String carried a roll of bills in his overalls and would peel off a hundred dollars to a less fortunate soul in an instant. String's relatives had lost their fortunes when the stock market crashed and then the banks went belly-up bringing on the Great Depression of the 20th Century. He preferred to keep his money in his pocket or stashed in his house.

During the last year of his life this fact began to circulate among those who favored taking money from others instead of asking for it. It began with a secretary who bragged to others about String's generous nature and how he'd share his roll of bills to most anyone who'd ask him for help. From this innocent banter eventually would come the ultimate payment of String and Estelle's life for their benevolence.

As the Grand Ole Opry was being broadcast on the radio 2 men who had broken into String's home were listening. They heard String sing and play

his banjo while they sat at his kitchen table and drank beer from his refrigerator.

When String and his wife Estelle arrived home these 2 men were waiting. One of them shot and killed String after taking the money String had in his overalls and getting no answer from String about where the other money was hidden. The other man chased Estelle out into the yard of the little guest house they chose to live in instead of the larger more impressive home they also owned. Estelle fell on her knees begging for mercy just before the gunman ruthlessly shot and killed her.

These 2 men were arrested and convicted of the murder of Sting and Estelle.

Stringbean, 'David Akeman' and Estelle were simple loving people and did not deserve the tragic end of their lives. This is their story and how little we knew of the danger that lurked around them.

Song: LITTLE DID WE KNOW

<http://www.myspace.com/garyrevel/music/songs/little-did-we-know-ballad-of-stringbean-72344378>

LYRICS

LITTLE DID HIS MOTHER KNOW
WHEN FIRST SHE CUDDLED HIM
WHAT LANDS HE WAS TO TRAVEL O'ER
WHAT DEATH WOULD COME TO HIM

LITTLE DID HIS BROTHER KNOW
WHEN LAST HE SPOKE WITH HIM
WHAT FATE WOULD COME TO MURDER THEM

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WHAT DEATH WOULD BE SO GRIM

LITTLE DID WE KNOW
HOW SOON THEY WOULD GO
BEFORE THE MORNING TRAIN COULD BLOW
LITTLE DID WE KNOW

LITTLE DID HIS OLD HILL FRIENDS KNOW
WHAT MONEY HE HAD HID
LITTLE DID THEY KNOW OF THAT
BUT OTHERS THERE WERE THAT DID

LITTLE DID WE KNOW
HOW SOON THEY WOULD GO
BEFORE THE MORNING TRAIN COULD BLOW
LITTLE DID WE KNOW

Words and Music by Mary Noel and Gary Revel

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