

## Sweet Betsy from Pike

Burl Ives

Now don't you remember sweet Betsy from Pike  
Who crossed the big mountains with her lover Ike  
Two yoke of oxen a big yeller dog a tall Shanghai rooster  
And one spottled hog

One evenin' quite early they camped on the plat  
Down by the road on a green shady flat  
Where Betsy got tired and lay down to repose  
And Ike he just gazed on his Pike County rose

Well they soon reached the desert where Betsy gave out  
Down in the sand she lay rollin' about  
While Ike in great tears looked on in surprise  
He said Betsy get up you'll get sand in your eyes  
Well the Shanghai ran off and the cattle all died  
The last piece of bacon that mornin' was fried  
Ike he got discouraged and Betsy got mad  
The dog wagged his tail and looked wonderfully sad

Well a miner said Betsy will you dance with me  
I will now old Hoss if you don't make too free  
But don't dance me hard do you want to know why  
Doggone you I'm chocked full of strong alkali  
Ike and sweet Betsy got married of course  
But Ike gettin' jealous obtained the divorce  
Betsy well satisfied said with a shout  
Goodbye you big lummo I'm glad you backed out