Informant/Performer: Clarice Burleson and Joe Powles
Crossmore, NC, 1940

Source: Jan P. Shinhan
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(verses from Vol. III)

Grandma Grunts

1. Grandma Grunts said a curious thing:
   Boys can whistle, but girls must sing.

   That is what I heard her say, 'Twas no longer than yesterday.

   Chorus: (whistle)
   Boys can whistle
   Girls must sing tra - la - la - la.

2. Boys can whistle, of course they may;
   They can whistle the livelong day.
   Why can't girls whistle too, pray tell,
   If they manage to do it well?

3. Grandma Grunts says it wouldn't do,
   Gives a very good reason, too;
   Whistling girls and crowing hens
   Always come to some bad end.

4. I asked my papa the reason why
   Girls couldn't whistle as well as I.
   He says to me, 'It's the natural thing
   For boys to whistle and girls to sing.'