Ida Red

Informant/Performer:
Miss Mae Smallwood
Dorton, Pike County, KY

Source:
Bess Alice Owens
"Songs of the Cumberlands"
Journal of the American Folklore Society
49 (1936)

1. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida blue,
I got struck* on Ida, too.

*to be struck on someone = to be deeply fond of (Merriam Webster)

2. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida green,
Purtiest gal you've ever seen.

3. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida pink,
I'm gonna dress that gal in mink.

4. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida yellow,
'Fraid she'll get another fellow.

5. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida gold,
She is something to behold.

6. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida white,
I'm gonna hold that gal so tight.

7. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida grey,
Guess I'll squeeze that gal all day.

8. Down the road and across the creek,
Can't get a letter but once a week,
Ida red, Ida red,
That gal's sweeter than gingerbread.

9. Bought me a horse and made me a sled,
Nobody can't ride but Ida red,
Ida red, Ida blue,
I got struck on Ida too.

Verses 2-8 from Leon and Lynn Dallin, Folk Songster

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