



# JUST FOR THE RECORD

by Dennis Barker



## Bob Dylan: *Subterranean Homesick Blues*

"I knew a man, his brain was so small, he couldn't think of nothing at all, he's not the same as you and me. He doesn't dig poetry. He's so unhip that when you say Dylan, he thinks you're talking about Dylan Thomas, whoever he was. The man ain't got no culture....."

Paul Simon

*Johnny's in the basement mixing up the medicine, I'm on the pavement thinking about the government* ..... It can all get a little esoteric. Sometimes we spend too much time trying to figure things out, hoping to crack the code on the inside joke. Lord knows, you won't have to go far to find someone who wants to give you an explanation of Dylan's *Subterranean Homesick Blues*. Ask 5 guys, get 5 answers. But, if you ask Dylan, he'd tell you, *You don't need a weather man to know which way the wind blows*. Who really care's. I think I'll just take the song as it is, a fascinating string of hip counterculture idiom, reciting Dylan's take on the rising conflict between middleclass America and the emerging youth movement. Drugs, cops, politics, Vietnam, civil rights, protests, and not just a little paranoia, all narrated to a driving folk rock beat.

Recorded on the Columbia label, the song was originally released as part of the 1965 *Bringing It All Back Home* album, but was released a month later as a single (with *she belongs to me* as the b-side). It would be Dylan's first Billboard top 40 hit, and would also appear on several later compilation albums.

*Subterranean homesick blues* would also have the distinction, of being amongst the first music video's. Used as a promo clip for the D. A. Pennebaker's film, *Don't Look Back*, a documentary on Bob Dylan's 1965 tour of England, the film featured Dylan looking at the camera, turning cue cards as the song played. Check it out, That's Allen Ginsberg in the background.

On the tails of the beat generation, Bob Dylan would reluctantly take his place as the poet laureate of the 1960's youth movement. Throughout that decade, Dylan would write a songbook of protest music, and his songs, incorporating political and social issues would find fertile ground among the growing counter culture, and civil rights movement. If you distill the 60's to its most primal elements, in the end, there's only Dylan.

### Bob Dylan: *Subterranean Homesick Blues*

**Label: Columbia #43242 (RELEASED APRIL 1965)**

Goldmine Price Guide to 45 rpm Records, Values original copies of *Subterranean Homesick Blues*, w/ picture sleeve, in near mint condition, at \$1,500.00

**Check out the record, read the lyrics or watch the video, visit our website at:**

<http://newcenturycollector.com/records>