



HUMAN SKAB

THUNDER HIPS & SADDLE BAGS (reissue)

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****VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE**

Human Skab was a 10-year old boy from Elma, Washington who played African music with buckets and spoons. *Thunder Hips and Saddle Bags* is a 1986 cassette recorded by young **Travis Roberts** with his neighborhood pals and siblings. It was injected into the underground network of tape traders, zine scribes, college DJs, and freak seekers who were universally bowled over by its bewildering and utterly poignant snapshot of the mid-1980s. Skab's music — an orchestration of pots n' pans, three string guitar, poorly-tuned upright piano, broken bottles, toy guns, a garden rake, and a "Snake Mountain" microphone — is a response to fear of nuclear war with the Soviet Union, He-Man cartoons, Twisted Sister, the coolness of dinosaurs, the uncoolness of John Wayne, and Ronald Reagan. Roberts captures the fervor of do-it yourself ethos, punk energy and the rawness of early American folk by acting on his wild child imagination and enigmatic sense of song.

These rare recordings have never been made widely available until now. This reissue includes the complete 1986 cassette. The CD version contain a bonus 1987 radio interview. The 16-page booklet in the 500 edition LP and CD contains extensive liner notes by Roberts and Cousin Franky, and radio DJ John Straub along with many full-color photographs and news clippings.

As Bruce Pavitt wrote in the 1986 *Sub Pop* zine: "the Skab zips around the living room shooting toy guns. He hits the family piano with his fists. He tries real hard to play guitar. He makes up songs about terrorism and radiation and throwing rocks at windows. Cool!"

TRACK LISTING

1. Screamin' Demon. 2. Drunk and Staggerin' Around 3. Throwin' Rocks at Windows 4. Grandest Fight of the Year 5. Mining the Radiation 6. Go For It 7. Dead Baby Blues 8. Playin' Guitar Best I Can 9. Under the Viaduct 10. Bullheads are Ugly 11. Africa Song 12. John Wayne is Dead 13. Eat My Skabs / Song of the Century 14. Death of the Dinosaurs 15. We Need to Destroy the Soviet Union 16. Guitar of Africans 17. First Kid to Hit the Radio 18. Phone Goof Off 19. Bein' Bad 20. Piano Concert [CD Bonus] 21. "The Human Skab Peeled Back" WZBC Special

SELLING POINTS

- Recommended if you like: Outsider or "real people" artists like **Captain Beefheart, Bishop Perry Tillis, Bobb Trimble, Larry "Wild Man" Fischer**, and fans of children's music.
- 16-page booklet packed with liner notes and color photo
- In the mid-1980s Skab was praised in the page of about in *Sup Pop, Spin, Your Flesh, Beef*, and other underground zines of the day
- Skab once opened for **Pere Ubu's David Thomas** at an Olympia, WA festival
- LP is one-time 500 edition!



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