

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**MUSIC**  
**HALL OF FAME**



**Song  
Lyrics**

*This song could be linked with "Trying to earn a nickel." How can you misjudge a person? Also links with "An honorable man." What did Tommy learn from his dad?*

# Hazel Dickens



## **Mama's Hand**

by Hazel Dickens

I said goodbye to that poor little mining town  
with a few old clothes, had made the rounds.  
I knew I was leaving a lot of things that were good  
but I thought I'd make a break while I still could.

As I looked back to wave, once more  
to Mama crying in the door  
For me and what the world might have in store  
for she knew I'd never be her little girl no more.

She was drifting back to another time  
when she was young and hoped to find  
A better life than what her mama's had been  
and it was hard to let go of Mama's hand  
My mama's hand.

Chorus:

One old paper bag full of hand-me-downs  
Plain old country girl, raised on gospel sound  
With only the love she gave me and pride in what I am  
It was hard to let go of Mama's hand... my mama's hand.

I thought of all the years she slaved,  
thought of all the love she gave  
Tried to make this run-down shack a home,  
a dream that really died 'fore it was born.

But she pulled us through the hardest times  
and made us hold our heads up high  
A gift we carry with us all our lives,  
for we were, oh, so special in Mama's eyes.

Chorus

As I looked back down that dusty road  
to Mama and her heavy load  
I knew what I was leaving, I'd never find again  
and it was hard to let go of Mama's hand  
My mama's hand.

Chorus