

Popeye the Guitar Man



I was transferring some Christmas video footage today and noticed that one of the gifts opened by a child in the video was a toy guitar with a hand crank on the side of it.

I don't know if they still are sold today, but they were certainly popular back in my day. In fact, I got one as a Christmas present a long long time ago. As I recall, it was a Popeye guitar and when you turned the handle it would play the Popeye theme song in a tinny kind of way:

I'm Popeye the sailor man.

I'm Popeye the sailor man.

I'm strong to the fin-ich

Cause I eats me spin-ach.

I'm Popeye the sailor man.

Of course, I learned the elementary school potty mouth version:

I'm Popeye the sailor man

I live in a garbage can.

I eats all the worms

And spits out the germs.

I'm Popeye the sailor man.

I'm not really sure how much influence this particular Christmas gift had on my musical ability. Well, actually I am. It had zero influence. Because I never did learn to play the guitar. And I hated spinach as a child. I did like hamburgers. Still do. Maybe my folks should have gotten me the Wimpy guitar.

(For my younger readers, Wimpy was Popeye's friend – a lazy moocher whose catchphrase was "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today." It was a debt he never paid because he always managed to stay out of sight on Tuesdays.)

Michael Ondrasik and Home Video Studio specialize in the preservation of family memories through the digitalization of films, videotapes, audio recordings, photos, negatives and slides. For more information, call 352-735-8550 or visit our [website](#).