Old Mother Flanagan

Traditional

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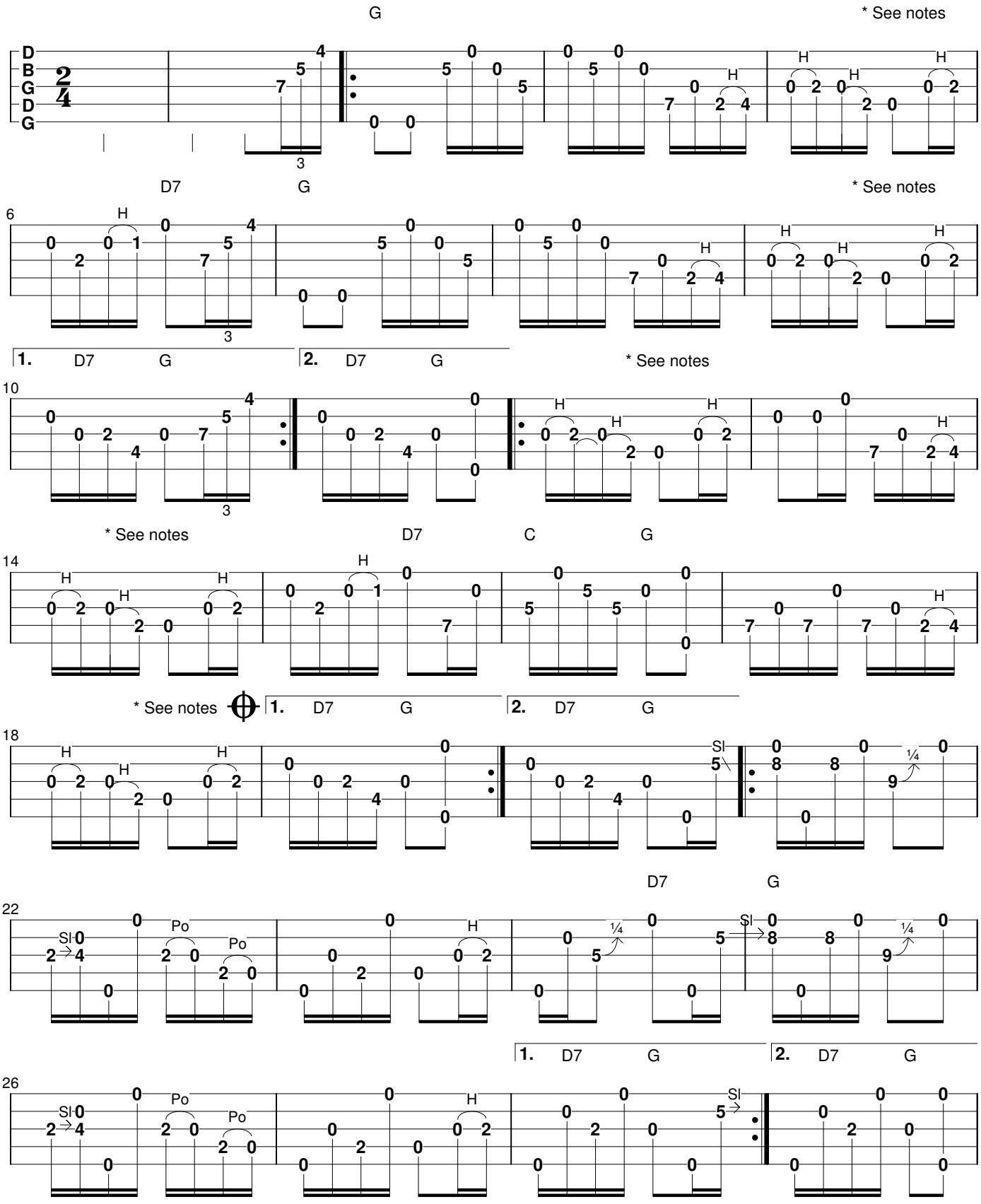

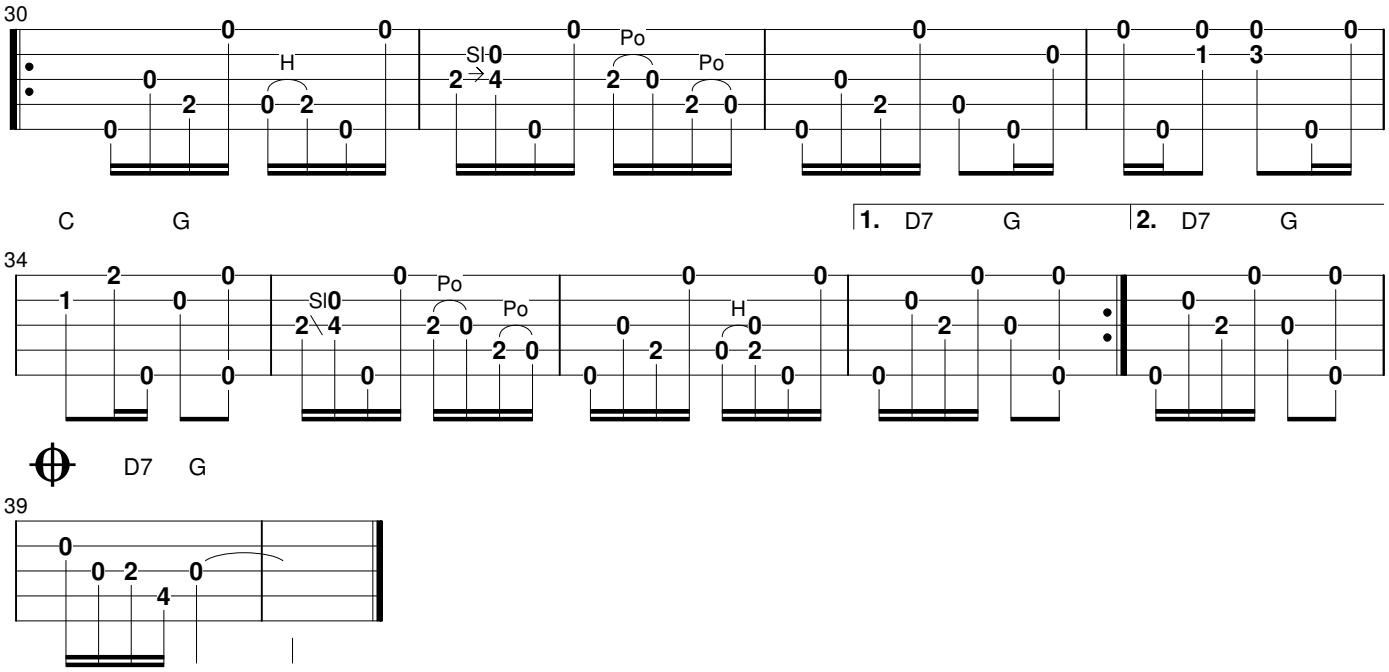

Most of today's old time musicians learned this Irish sounding (and Irish titled) tune from the first Fuzzy Mountain Stringband album released by Rounder records back in the 70s. The tune seems to have originated with legendary West Virginia fiddler French Carpenter, who apparently learned it from his father. The Fiddlers Companion says this is the same tune as the Irish Reel Green Fields of America, but while it has many of the same musical phrases, they have been significantly reordered.

The first break is in melodic style, although where I can, I still like to use hammers and pull-offs to obtain needed notes, in order to vary the dynamics a little bit. The second break is in Scruggs style, and makes a nice contrast to the literal melodic break. Measures 5, 9, 12 and 14, in the melodic break, include a hammer on the 4th string, and despite the ghost note shown in the tab, you don't pluck the string first before hammering. Instead, you are hammering onto a quiet string. The ghost note is only there in order to fool the MIDI function into playing the hammer-on note.