$2.00

15

FIDDLE TUNES

For Five String

BANJO

3 Finger Style

by Don Borchelt

"15 Fiddle Tunes for Five String Banjo,
Three Finger Style,"
©1974 by Don Borchelt

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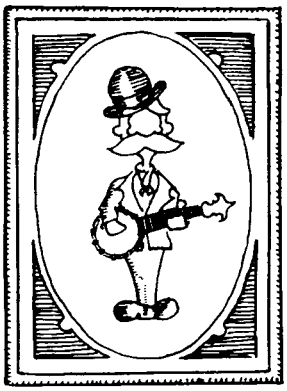

INTRODUCTION

Nothing goes together quite like a fiddle and a banjo. The smoothly drawn notes of the fiddle bow make a wonderful pattern of sound, especially when contrasted with the clear, punctuating notes of the five string banjo. Their music is always exciting.

The tunes in this collection, from all over the country, provide a fund of ideas for playing with the fiddle. Some ripple along, like Money Musk, with hardly a pause; others, like Dallas Rag, are highly syncopated. Three of the tunes are in jig time (3/4), Irish Washerwoman, Paddy Whack, and Coleraine. You may not want to borrow all of the ideas in each tune; the nice thing about the banjo is that there are countless ways of getting from one musical place to another.

The notation in this book is for the most part the standard banjo tablature system. The five lines of the staff represent the five strings of the banjo, the first string at the top. A number sitting atop a line indicates that the string it represents is to be picked while being noted at that fret. 0 indicates an open string, and x represents a one note rest. The letters below the line indicate the fingers of the right hand (T=thumb; I=index; M=middle), or particular techniques (H=hammer on; P=pull off; SL=slide; CH=choke). Good picking!

Don Borchelt
May, 1974

Money Musk

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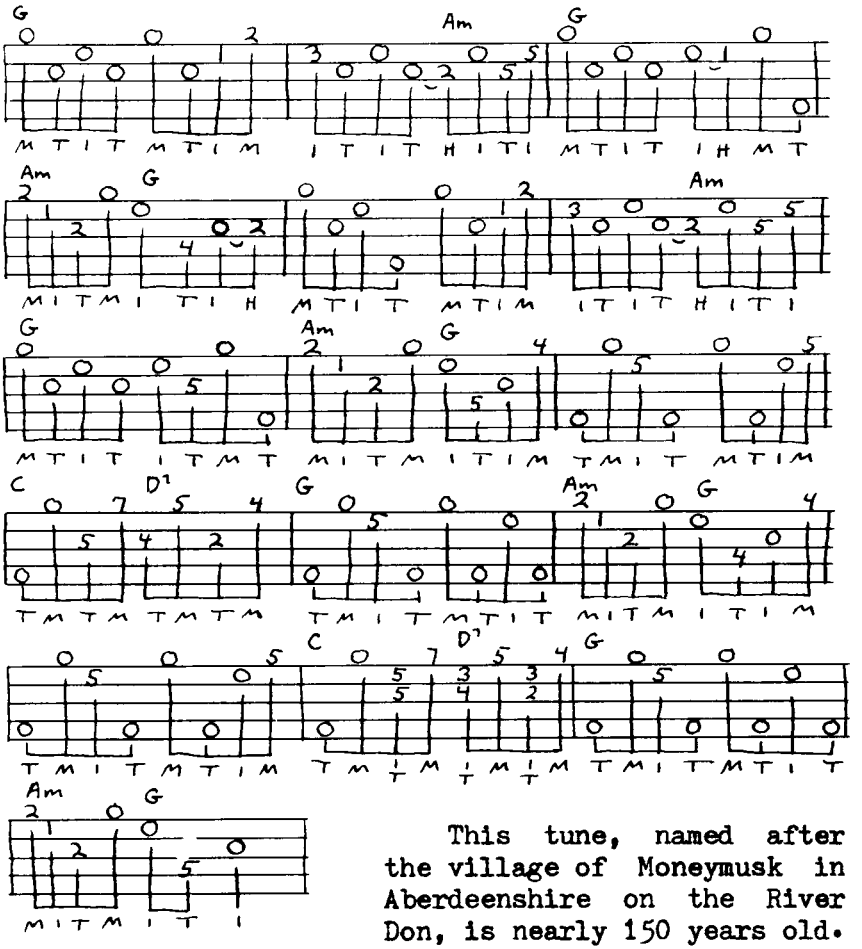

This tune, named after the village of Moneymusk in Aberdeenshire on the River Don, is nearly 150 years old.

Saratoga

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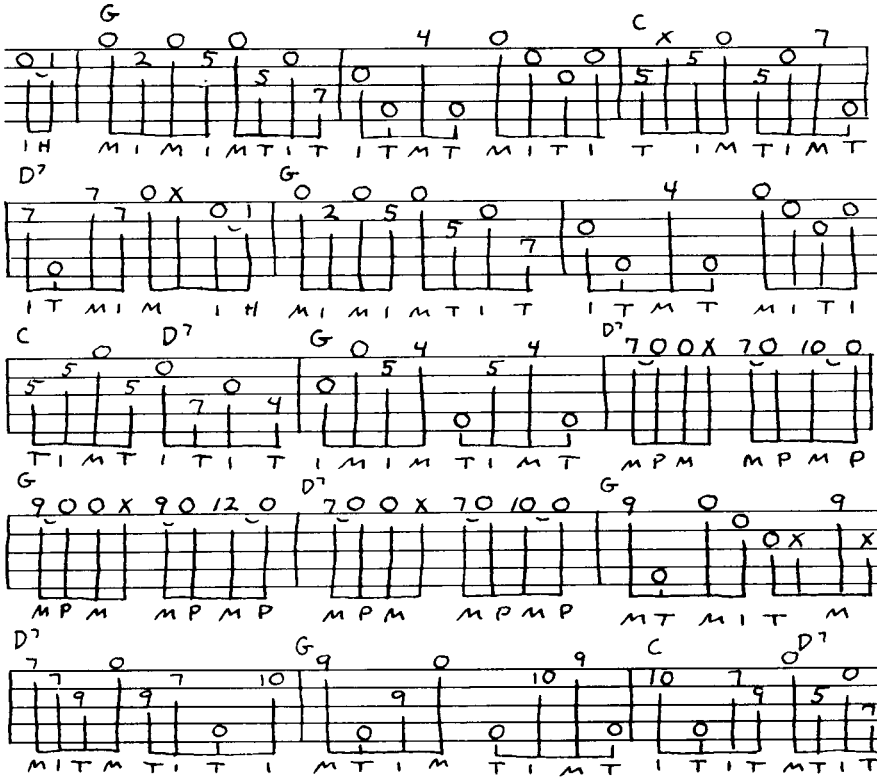

This pretty tune is not the simplest to master. The pull-offs in the second part must be executed very smoothly to sound just right.

Irish Washerwoman

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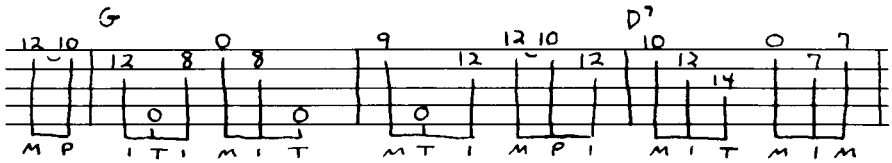

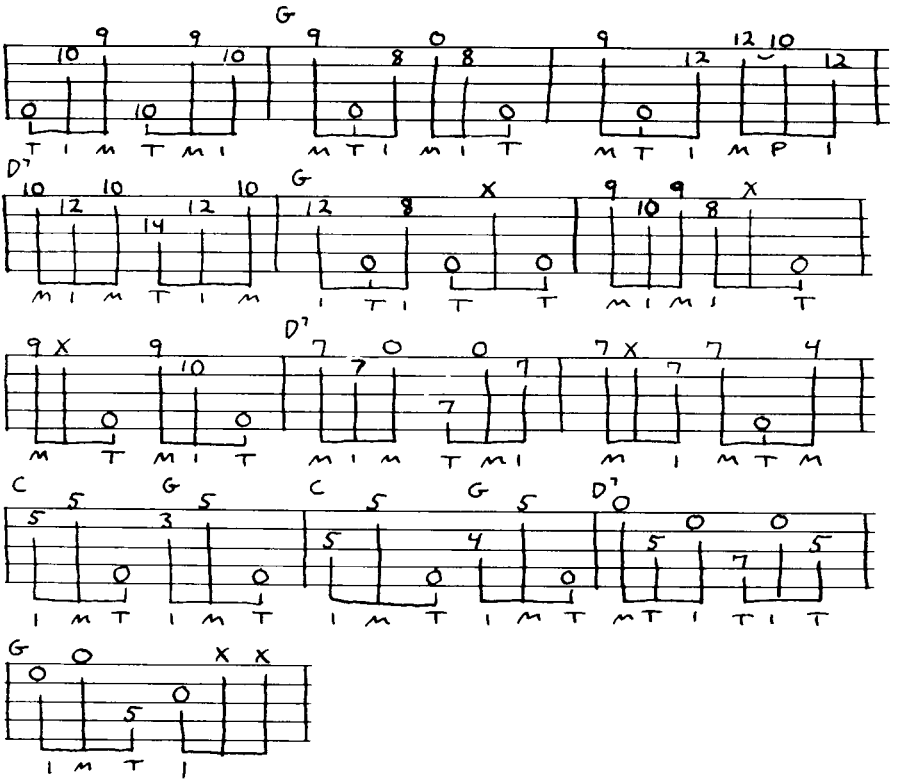
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D7
C
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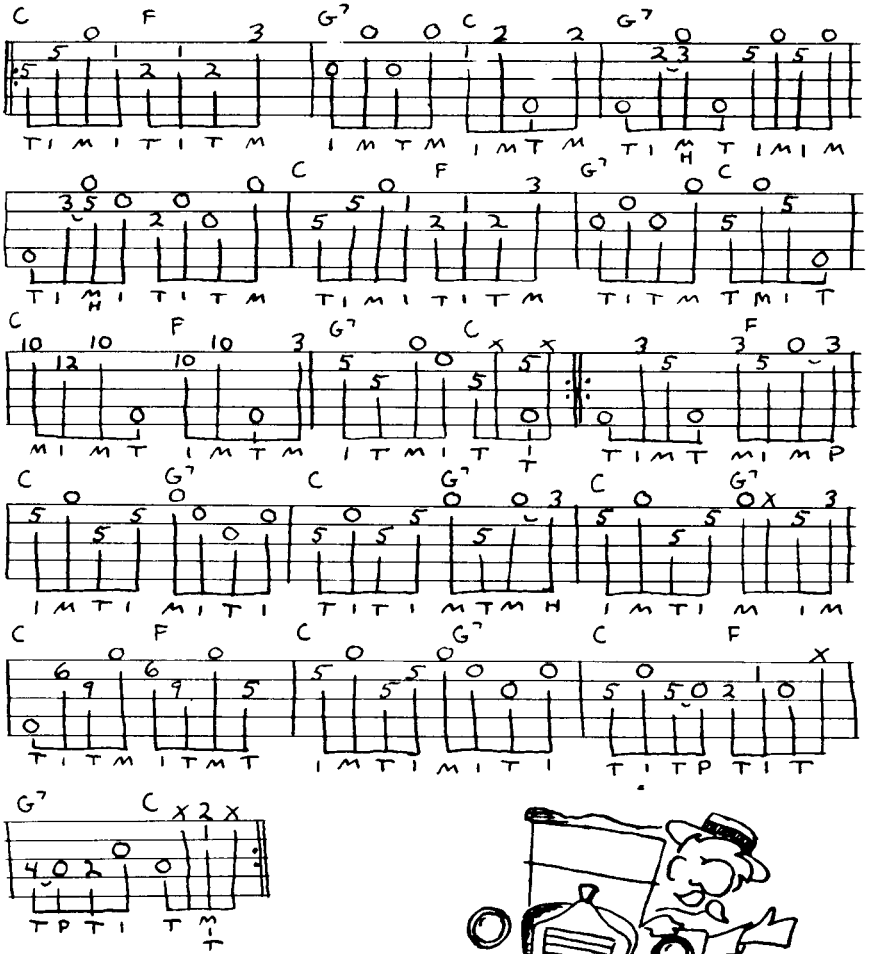
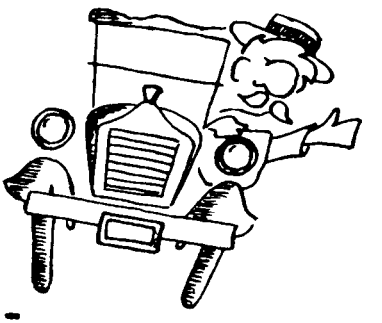
C
G
D7
G

ARKANSAS TRAVELLER

The Arkansas Traveller is a popular old piece which graced many a looney tune cartoon. There is a little dialogue which was often connected with the music, giving refuge to miriad travelling salesman jokes on their way to the graveyard. It has been the demise of more than one entertainer.

GCGBD





RAGTIME ANNIE

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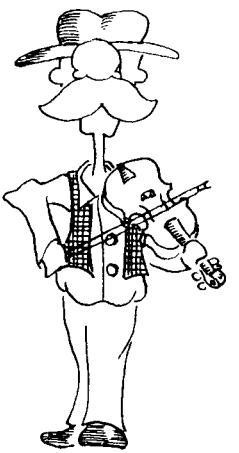

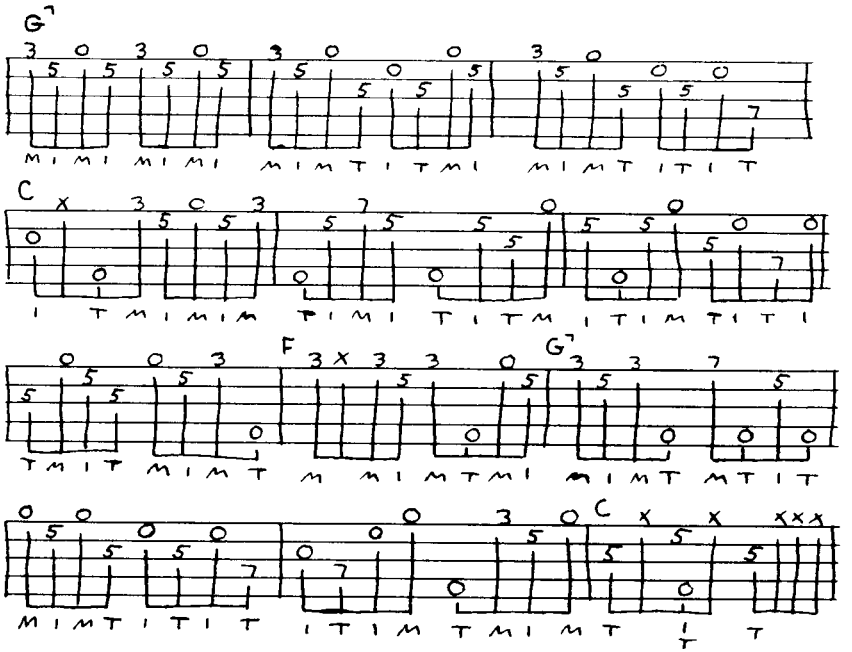

JUNE APPLE

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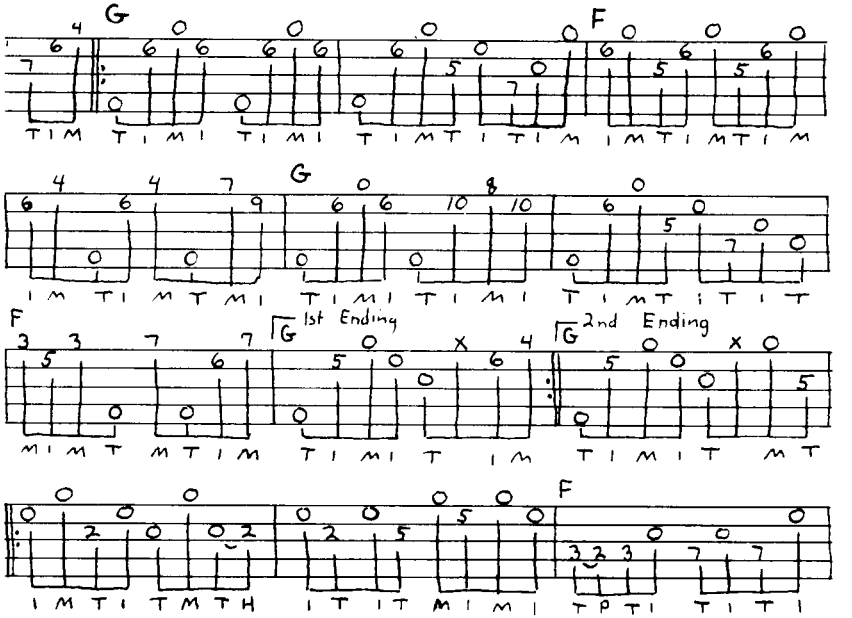
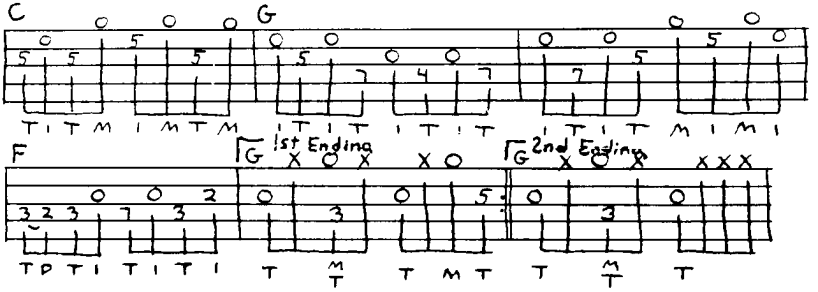
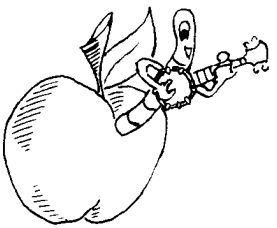




This setting of June Apple has some "wierd" licks in the first part that gives it a nice modal quality.



LONE STAR RAG

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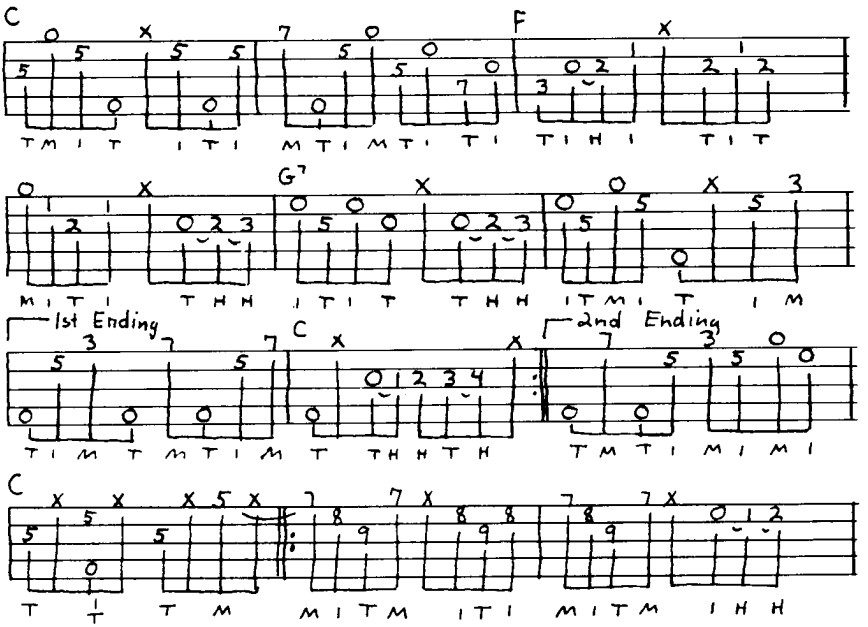
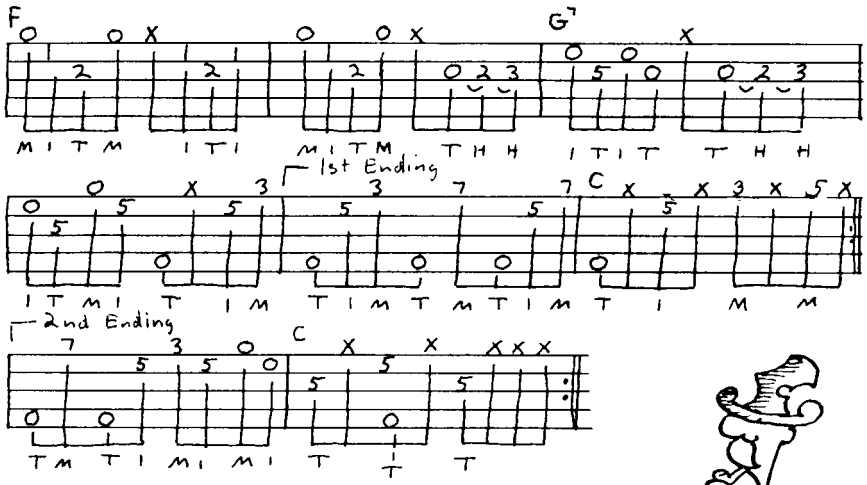
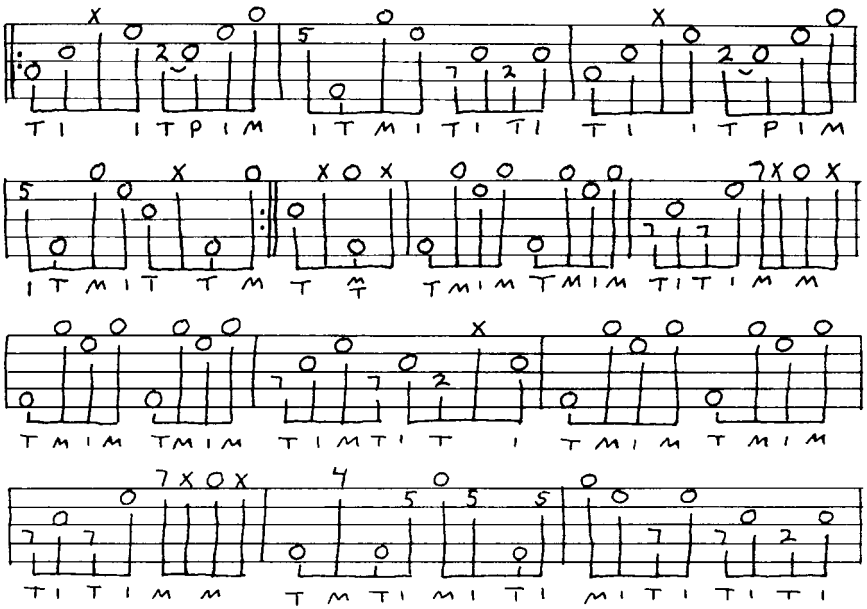


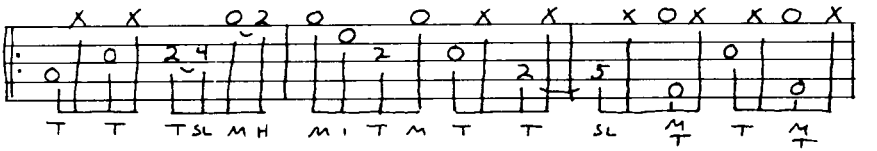


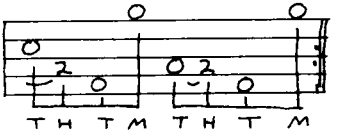
THE LAST OF CALAHAN

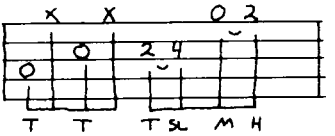
This tune is reported to be the gallows composition of a convicted criminal. Legend is unclear as to his crime, but his habit of playing the fiddle at odd times may have had something to do with it. This is not where Western Swing fiddling got its name.

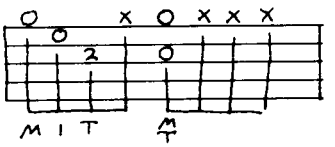
GDGBD





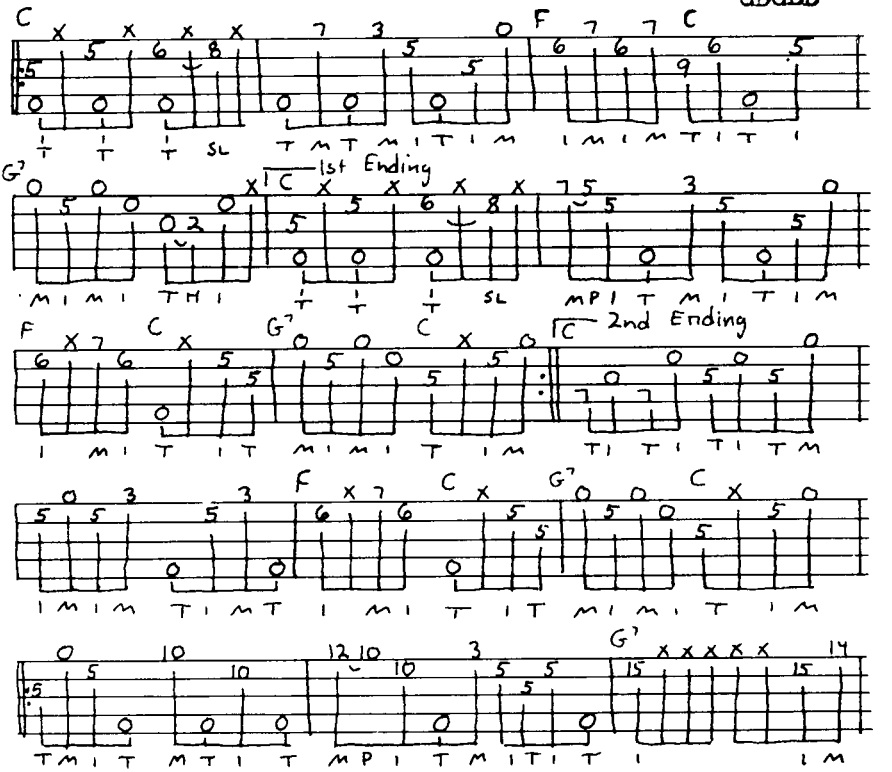


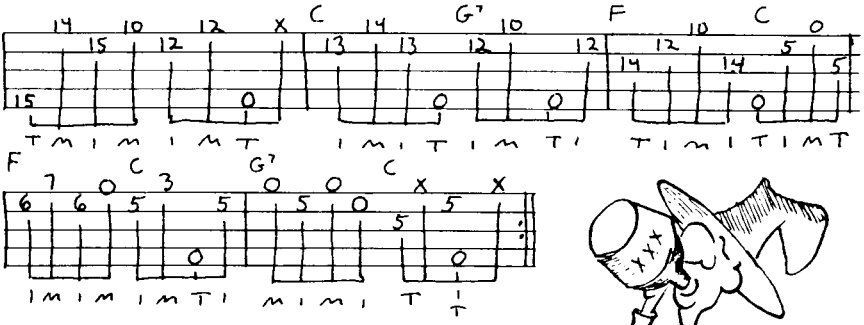




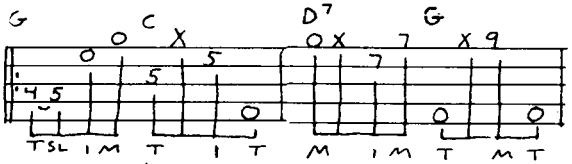
WHISKEY BEFORE BREAKFAST

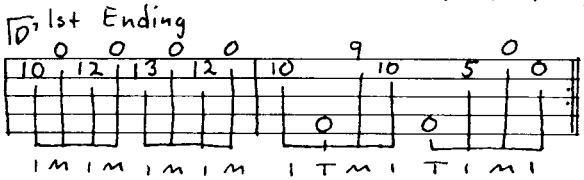
GDGBD





Miller's Reel





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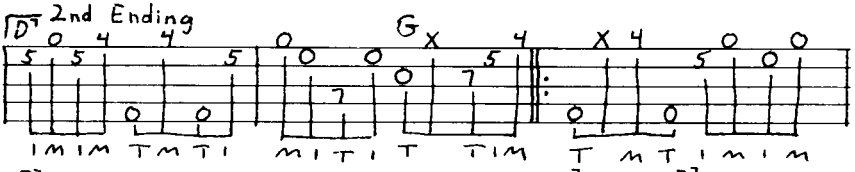

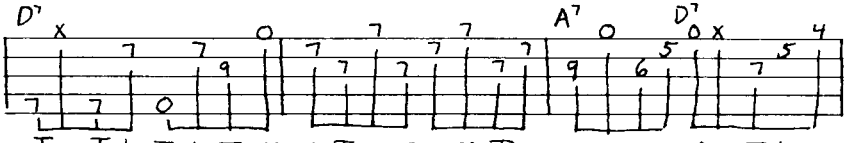

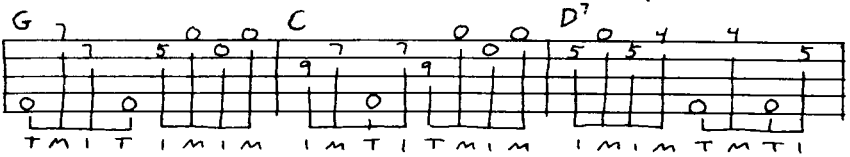

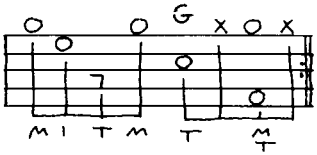

The Red-Haired Boy

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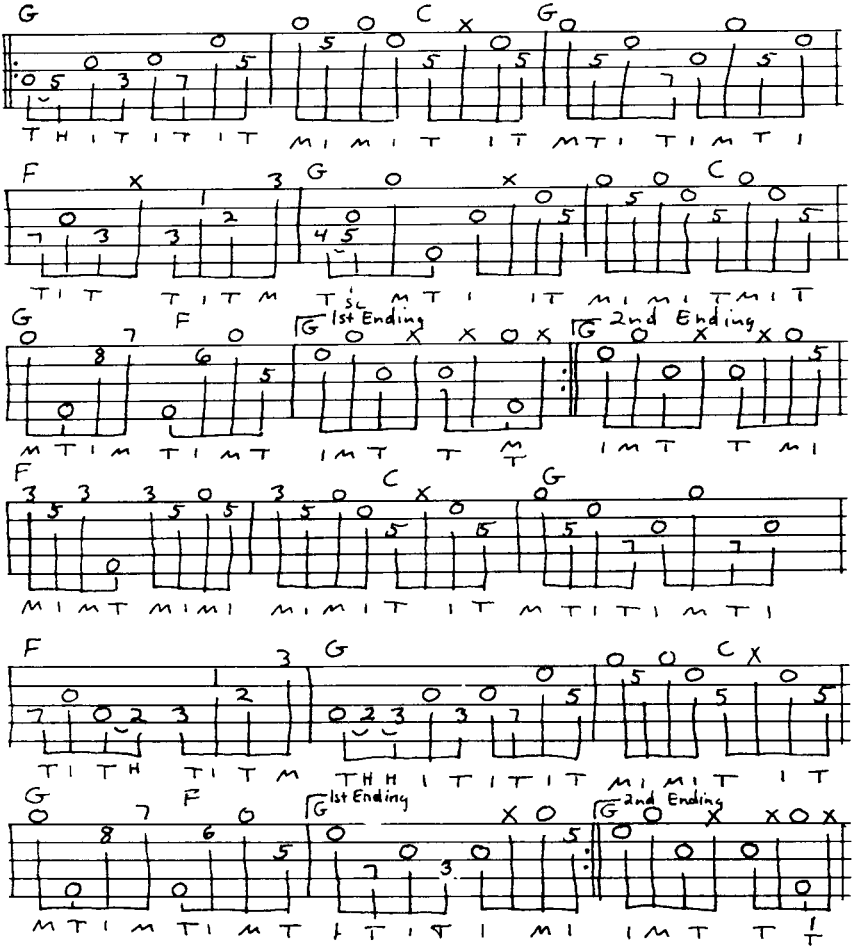
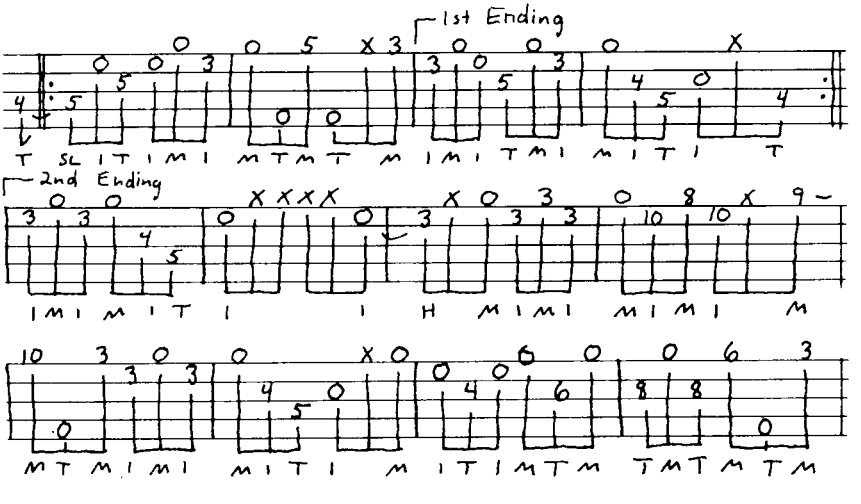
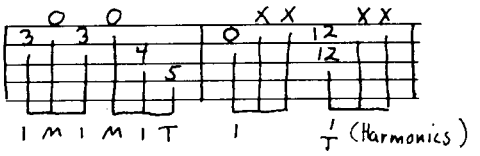
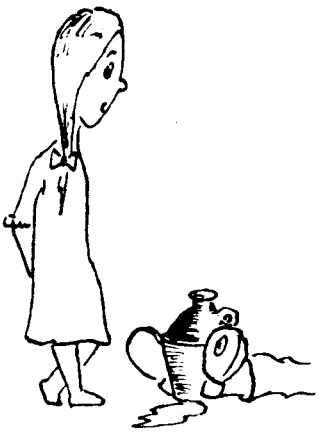


Coleraine

GDGCD







Paddy Whack

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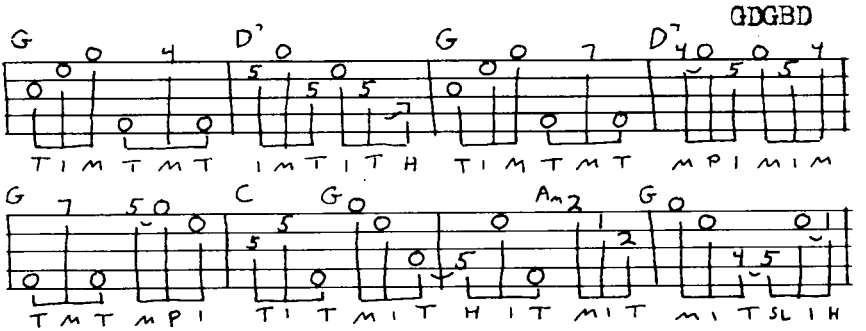

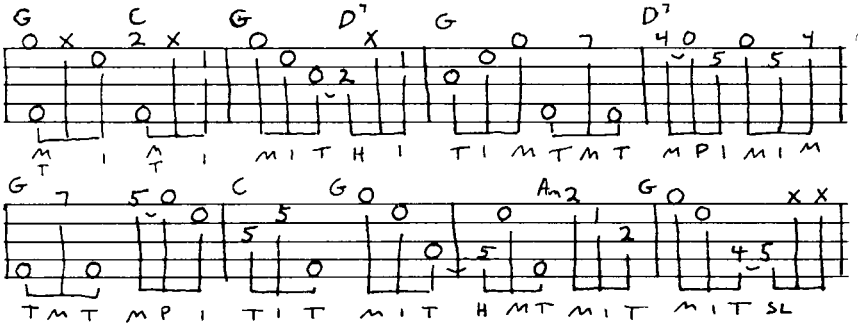

CHICKEN REEL

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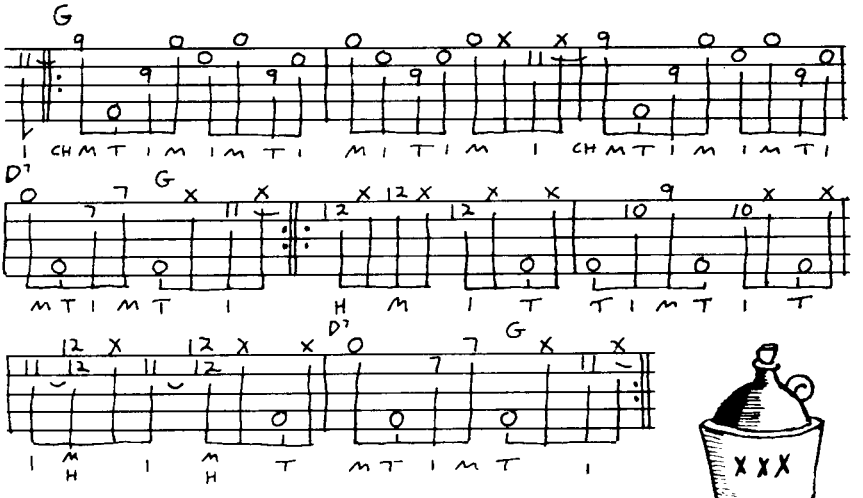

DALLAS RAG

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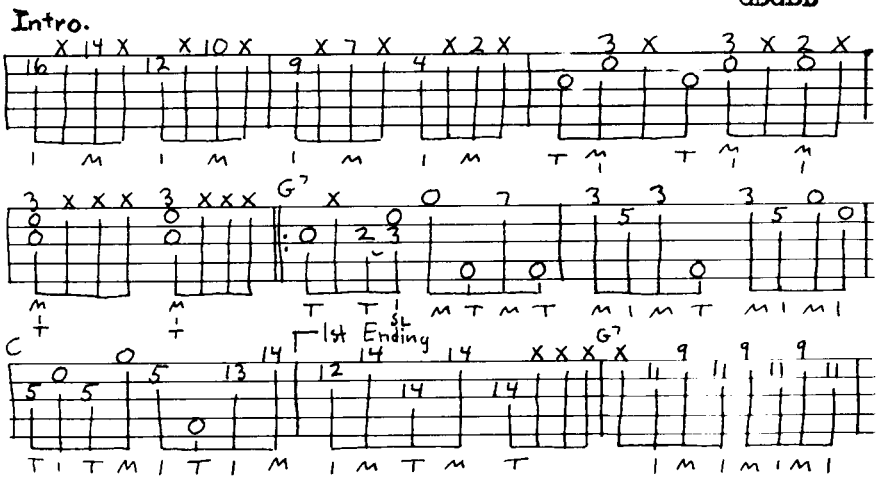

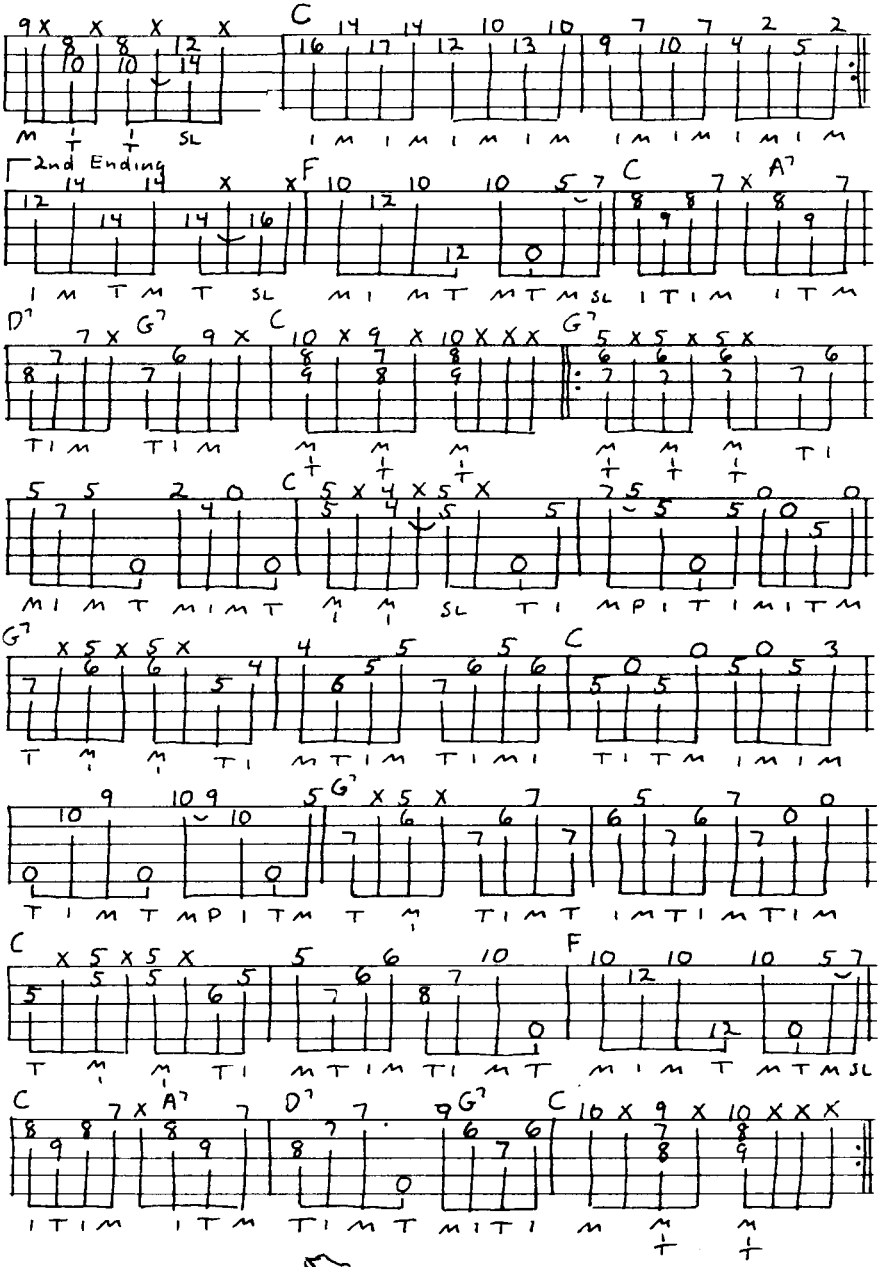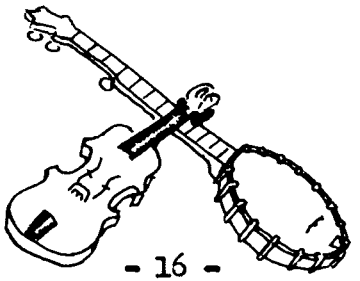
C
2nd Ending
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