

Lazy John

Traditional

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The image displays a guitar tablature for the song "Lazy John". The music is written in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tablature is organized into six systems, each containing four measures. The strings are labeled D, A, G, D, g from top to bottom. Chords are indicated by letters (D7, G, C) above the staff. Fretted notes are shown as numbers on the strings. Techniques such as slides (Sl), hammer-ons (H), pull-offs (Po), and triplets (3) are used throughout the piece. The piece begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The first system starts with a D7 chord and a hammer-on on the D string. The second system features a G chord and a slide on the G string. The third system includes a C chord and a slide on the G string. The fourth system continues with G and C chords. The fifth system introduces a D7 chord and a hammer-on on the D string. The sixth system concludes with a D7 chord and a hammer-on on the D string.

The image shows two systems of fiddle tablature. The first system starts at measure 29 and ends at measure 32. It features a G major chord at the beginning, a C major chord in the second measure, and a D7 chord at the end. The second system starts at measure 33 and ends at measure 36. It features a G major chord at the beginning and a D7 chord at the end. The tablature includes various fret numbers (12, 14, 9, 0, 2, 4) and techniques such as hammer-ons (H), slides (Sl), and bends (9, 12, 14).

My gal lives at the end of the road,
 Her teeth are crooked and her legs are bowed,
 But we sure have a lot of fun,
 Why don't you get away lazy John?

Chorus: Lazy John, lazy John,
 Why don't you get your day's work all done,
 You're in the shade and I'm in the sun,
 Why don't you get away lazy John?

This tune comes from the great fiddler Clyde Davenport, who recorded it solo in March, 1990, in his home in Monticello, Kentucky. He would play it through once, and then sing a verse and chorus a cappella, without accompaniment, and then play it again on the fiddle. Here are some of his lyrics:

Goin to a dance on Saturday night,
 Ain't coming home til the broad daylight,
 Then I'll take my girl back home,
 Why don't you get away lazy John?

Chorus

Work all week in the noon day sun,
 Fifteen cents when Saturday comes,
 Goin to a dance to have some fun,
 Why don't you get away lazy John?