

Down at the Mouth of Old Stinson

The musical score is written in D Major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. Section A consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. It starts with a D chord and a half note D, followed by a series of eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D. This is followed by a double bar line and a 3/2 time signature. The second staff of section A continues with eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D, and ends with a half note D and an A7 chord. Section B consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. It starts with a D chord and a half note D, followed by eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D. This is followed by a double bar line and a 3/2 time signature. The second staff of section B continues with eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D, and ends with a half note D and an A7 chord. The third staff of section B continues with eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D, and ends with a half note D and an A7 chord. The fourth staff of section B continues with eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D, and ends with a half note D and an A7 chord. The fifth staff of section B continues with eighth notes: D, E, F#, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E, D, and ends with a half note D and an A7 chord.

"Down at the Mouth of Old Stinson", also known as "Mouth of Stinson" is an old-time breakdown from West Virginia in D Major. The parts are played AB or AABB.

John Hartford notes that the area around Stinson Creek in Calhoun County, West Virginia, was at one time a very rough place and best avoided (although it was near Old Laury Hick's place, where Wilson Douglas used to hear the regionally famous fiddler Ed Haley play).

Gerry Milnes reports that source Wilson Douglas associated the tune with the Mouth of Stinson Creek in Clay County. The story is that there was a picnic attended by the 'woodhicks' (lumberjacks who were then harvesting timber in the area) there during which part of the entertainment was a wrestling match. Something went amiss and one of the participants, a man named Cheneth, was severely injured and died the next day. This 'crooked' tune is supposed to reflect the sadness of the event. According to Douglas there was an old tavern called Copperhead Junction (also known as "Bloody Bucket") at the Mouth of Stinson that had a reputation as being one of the roughest places in the region, notorious for excessive drinking, fighting and shootings.

It was recorded by Wilson Douglas, Rafe Stefanini & David Bragger on **Holy Smoke!** (2018), Modock Rounders on **Old Tunes & New Blood - Legacy of Wilson Douglas** (2015), French Carpenter on **Elzic's Farewell** (1978. Originally recorded 1963), John Hartford on **Wild Hog in the Red Brush (and a Bunch of Others You Might Not Have Heard)** (1996), Gerry Milnes & Lorriane Lee Hammond on **Hell Up Coal Holler** (1999) and Walt Koken on **Sittin' In the Cat Bird's Seat** (2012).