

Soapsuds Over the Fence

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff, labeled 'A', shows the first measure of the A section. The second staff, labeled 'B', shows the first measure of the B section. The third staff shows the second measure of the B section. Chord symbols G, D7, C, and G are placed above the notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Soapsuds Over the Fence", also known as "Pouring Soapsuds Over the Fence", "Soap Suds" or "Throw the Soap Suds in the Corner of the Fence" is an American reel in cut time and D Major. The parts are played AB (Silberberg) or AABB (Phillips).

There are several versions of this tune and several tunes that go by the same name but are unrelated. I picked this tune for the off-beat name but found that it had some history behind it. The tune is mentioned in accounts as having been played in a fiddlers' contest in Atlanta, Ga. in 1914 and as having been played by Rock Ridge, Alabama, fiddlers around 1920. The title (as "Pouring Soapsuds over the Fence") appears in a list of traditional Ozarks Mountains fiddle tunes compiled by musicologist/folklorist Vance Randolph, published in 1954.

Texas fiddler Captain McKinney recorded the tune in 1929 for Okeh Records.

This version is from the playing of the north Georgia group Gid Tanner and His Skillet Lickers as part of their recorded skit "Jeremiah Hopkins' Store on Sand Mountain" (1930). The Skillet Licker lineup for the session was: Clayton McMichen, Riley Puckett, Gid Tanner Lowe Stokes, Bert Layne, Fate Norris, Oscar Ford & Tom Dorsey.

It was printed in Beisswenger & McCann's **Ozarks Fiddle Music** (2008) (appears as "Soap Suds"), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes, vol.1** (1994), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002) and Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021).

It was recorded by Mose Coffman on **Visits** (1981), Skillet Lickers on **A Day at the Country Fair** (appears in skit "Jeremiah Hopkin's Store on Sand Mountain"), James Bryan on **Lookout Blues** (1983) and Lyman Enloe on **Rugged Road** (c. 1976).