

# I'm Just a Common Lumberhick

Eddie Ashlaw and Elmer Jones

In a jaunty style (♩ = 80)

(Bush LaPorte)

Capo 3: D A7

I'm just a com - mon lum - ber - hick, and I've made a pile of jack, I  
shot the wad, and now, by God, I won't try to have it back; I  
have - n't a pain, so I can't com - plain, but a few things I will men - tion, I  
2. et al.: pat - ting the head of his dog, I  
won't be long in sing - ing my song, if you'll give me your at - ten - tion. I

2. Well, the first time I went in the woods, boys, I wished that I was dead,  
I got in with a bunch of "Frogs" and a dirty, lousy bed.  
Well, the pusher's name was Bush LaPorte, he weren't a bad sorter of log;  
You'd always see him smoking his pipe, and patting the head of his dog.

3. When told at the camp that the ice was gone and a pair of his horses were in,  
He said not a word but he kept right on a-playing his old violin.  
But this winter was finally over, boys, and at last the logs were in;  
We bade good-bye to Bush LaPorte, his dog, and his old violin.

4. Then I went to Beaver River, it's a place just up the line;  
I didn't save much money, but I had a hell of a time.  
I cleaned land by the acre till the fire burnt my shoes,  
I shot the wad in poker chips, and had quite a few bottles of booze.

5. But it couldn't last forever, boys, it finally went on the hog,  
Then I had to hunt for another place, well, another place to log.  
Then I went down on the lousy line - I made good money, too;  
I liked the work, and I liked the place, and I liked the whole damn crew.

6. Old Kelly kept the wages up as long as he held sway;  
But old Creighton cut them all to hell when Kelly got out of his way.

Eddie Ashlaw apparently had a very flexible singing style, as indicated by the many melodic and rhythmic variations presented in Robert Bethke's transcription of his song in "Adirondack Voices" (pp. 91 - 93). Work through each verse carefully and with some flexibility in fitting the words to the melody to keep the text clear and flowing.

\*The two-line verse should begin with the third phrase (3rd line of music).

7. Then I went in for the Oval Dish, nicknamed by some "The Plate,"  
And when the wages are in style those people are up to date.  
Old Creighton set the wages, and he set them mighty small,  
For all he paid was a dollar a day, and we had to hit the ball.

8. Then I went down for Sisson and White - I think it was the worst of all;  
But what could I do in my summer clothes when the time was late in the fall?  
Jim Sullivan was the pusher there, with his assistant, Jerry Hayes;  
Of all the pushers you ever saw they certainly had queer ways.

9. Jim Sullivan was the pusher there, he's a grouchy son-of-a-gun,  
If his Indians would ever turn on him he'd certainly have some fun!  
But this winter was finally over, boys, and I certainly felt glad;  
But I had to stay in work for small pay, and I sure felt mighty bad.

10. For I've worked through this woods, boys, I've worked up  
and down the line,  
I've worked in spruce and balsam, and I've taken my turn in pine.  
But I've come to this conclusion, and I'll stick to it evermore:  
If your boy wants to go to the woods next fall, shoot him the spring before.