

Yellow Dog Blues

Words & Music:
W.C. (William Christopher) Handy

Man, I love it when a search for the source of a tune teaches me something new! Acoustic Guitar had a nice little arrangement of this "Traditional" tune in its July 2006 issue. A search brought me to a treasure trove called "Mike & Marie's Home Page" where Mike has posted his fingerstyle arrangements of a number of old tunes. This was originally published as "Yellow Dog Rag" and later published as the "Yellow Dog Blues". Mike's tabs for both are below. It is a basic A blues, but I cannot quite parse where the chords go with the words.

Since Susan Johnson lost her jockey Lee,
There's been much excitement, more to be.
You can hear her moanin' night and morn,
"Wonder where my easy rider's gone?"
Cablegrams come of sympathy, telegrams go of inquiry.
Letters come from Alabam'
And everywhere that Uncle Sam has even a rural delivery.
All day the phone rings, but it's not for me.
At last good tidings fill our hearts with glee.
This message comes from Tennessee.

CHORUS:

Dear Sue, your easy rider struck this 'burg today.
On a southbound rattler side-door Pullman car.
I seen him and he was on the bog. Easy rider, got to stay away.
So, he had to vamp it but the hike ain't far.
He's gone where the Southern cross the Yellow Dog.

I know the Yellow Dog district like a book,
I know the route that rider took;
Every crosstie, bayou, 'burg, and bog.
'Way down where the Southern cross the Dog.
Money don't exactly grow on trees; on cotton stalks, it grows with ease.
No racehorse, racetrack, no grandstand is like old Beck & buckshot land
Down where the Southern cross the Dog.
Every kitchen there is like a cabaret;
Boll weevil works while the people play.
The Yellow Dog Rag all the livelong day.

CHORUS:

Yellow Dog Blues [arranged by Mike Wingram]

Intro

E7		A				
-----2-3-4-	-----0-----	-----6-7-----	-----0-----	-----	-----	-----
-----8-7-----	-----0-----	-----2-----	-----5s4-2-	-----	-----	-----
-----2-4-5-	-----6-----6-	-----6-----6-	-----2-----2-	-----	-----	-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-2-4-

Verse

A

-----5-7-8-7-----	-----5-7-8-----	-----5-7-8-7-----	-----5-7-8-----
-----6-----6-	-----6-----6-	-----6-----6-	-----6-----6-
-----7-----7-	-----7-----7-	-----7-----7-	-----7-----7-
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----

D

A

-----5-5-----	-----8-7-5-----	-----5-----	-----
-----7-7-7-	-----7-5-	-----5h6-	-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----7-7-	-----7-7-
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----

E7

A

-----0-----	-----0-----	-----2-----	-----	-----
-----8-7-----	-----6-7-----	-----2-----	-----5s4-2-	-----
-----6-----6-	-----6-----6-	-----2-----2-	-----0-----	-----0-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-2-4-

A

-----5-7-8-7-----	-----5-7-8-----	-----5-7-8-7-----	-----5-7-8-----
-----6-6-----6-	-----6-----6-	-----6-6-----6-	-----6-----6-
-----7-----7-	-----7-----7-	-----7-----7-	-----7-----7-
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----

D

A

-----5-5-----	-----5-7-8-----7-	-----5-7-5-7-	-----5-7-5-----
-----7-7-7-	-----	-----6-6-6-	-----6-6-6-----
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----7-7-7-	-----7-----7-
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-----

E7

A

-----5-7-8-	-----9-7-10-5-	-----5-5-5-	-----R-----
-----6-----	-----9-----9-	-----2-4-5-6-	-----6-6-6-
-----7-7-8-	-----0-----	-----7-----	-----7-7-7-
-----0-----	-----0-----	-----0-4-5-6-7-	-----

e q. q q

D D

```

+-----5-----5-----+-----5-----+-----5-----5-----+
|-----2-----2-----|-----6s7-----7-----5-----|-----4-----5-----6-----|-----5-----5-----7-----|
|-----7-----7-----|-----0-----0-----7-----|-----7-----7-----|-----7-----7-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
+-----0-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+

```

D A

```

+-----5-----5-----+-----5-----+-----5-----+-----5-----+
|-----2-----2-----7-----|-----7-----7-----1s2-----|-----5s4-----2-----|-----5-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
+-----0-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+

```

B7 E A F7 E7

```

+-----2-----2-----2-----+-----0-----+-----R-----5-----|-----8-----7-----|-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----4-----2-----0-----|-----6-----6-----|-----6-----7-----|-----|
|-----1-----1-----|-----1-----1-----|-----4-----5-----|-----6-----7-----|-----7-----6-----|
|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----7-----7-----7-----|-----7-----|-----8-----7-----|
+-----2-----+-----0-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
e q. q q q q h h h

```

Chorus

A D F7 A A

```

+-----+-----+-----5-----+-----+
|-----2-----2-----|-----3-----4-----|-----5-----7-----7-----2-----|-----5s4-----|
|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----5-----|-----6-----6-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|
|-----2-----2-----|-----4-----3-----|-----7-----7-----|-----2-----2-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
+-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+

```

D7 A

```

+-----+-----+-----5-----+-----5-----+
|-----0-----1-----0-----|-----1-----0-----1-----0-----|-----2-----|-----2-----|
|-----2-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|
|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
+-----2-----2-----+-----2-----2-----+-----0-----+-----4-----2-----+

```

(1)...

E A

```

+-----0-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|-----0-----|-----1-----2-----1-----2-----1p0-----|-----2-----|-----|
|-----2-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|-----5-----2-----|-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----2-----2-----|-----0-----|
+-----0-----0-----+-----0-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----2-----4-----+

```

(2)...

E A

```

+-----0-----+-----+-----+-----5-----+-----+
|-----0-----0-----0-----0-----|-----1-----2-----1-----2-----1p0-----|-----R-----2-----|-----|
|-----2-----2-----1-----|-----2-----2-----|-----6-----5-----4-----2-----|-----2-----2-----|
|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|-----0-----7-----6-----5-----4-----|-----4-----0-----|
+-----0-----0-----+-----0-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+
(tied) q h

```

Yellow Dog Rag [arranged by Mike Wingram]

Verse

A

E	-----+	-----+	-----+	-----+	-----+
B	5-5-5-	-5-7-8-7-	-5-7-8-	-5-7-8-7-	-5-7-5-
G	-----	-----6-	-----6-	-----6-	-----
D	-----	-7-7-	-7-7-	-7-7-	-7-7-
A	-----	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
E	-----+	0-----+	0-----+	0-----+	0-----+

D7

A

(NC)

E	5-5-	8-7-5-	-----	-----
B	-----7-	-----7-5-	-----5-	-----
G	-----	-----	5h6	-----
D	7-7-	7-7-	7-7-	-----
A	5-	5-	0-	0-4-5-6-
E	5-	5-	0-	-----

E7

A

E	0-	0-	-----	-----
B	0-	6-7-	2-2-5-	2-2-
G	8-7-	-----2-	5-	5-2-
D	6-6-	6-6-	2-2-	2-2-
A	-----	-----	0-	0-
E	0-	0-	0-	0-

A

E	-----+	-----+	-----+	-----+
B	5-7-8-7-	-5-7-8-	-5-7-8-7-	-5-7-5-
G	6-6-6-6-	-6-6-6-	-6-6-6-	-6-6-
D	7-7-7-	-7-7-7-	-7-7-7-	-7-7-7-
A	0-	0-	0-	0-
E	0-----+	0-----+	0-----+	0-----+

D7

A

E	5-5-5-5-	5-7-8-7-	5-	-----
B	-----7-	-----	7-5-7-	5-7-5-
G	-----	-----	-----	-----
D	7-7-7-	7-7-7-	7-7-7-	7-7-7-
A	5-	5-	0-	0-
E	5-	5-	0-	0-

(NC)

E

A

E	-----+	10-----	5-----	5-----	5-5-5-+
B	5-7-8-	-10-12-9-	-----	-----	-----
G	6-6-8-	-----	5-6-	-----	6-6-6-
D	7-7-7-	9-9-	7-7-	-----	-----
A	0-	-----	0-	0-	-----
E	-----+	0-----+	0-----+	0-----+	-----+

A

(NC)

A

E	5-5-	5-	5-	5-5-5-
B	-----	6h7-7-5-	-----	-----
G	6-	-----5h6-	5h6-	6-6-6-
D	7-7s-	0-	7-7-	-----
A	0-	-----	0-	0-
E	0-	-----	0-	-----

(D) A

```

E--5--5-----+-----7-----+-----1-----+
B-----7---|---6h7---7---|-----|---2-----|
G-----|-----7--2-|-----|-----|
D---0---0---0-|0-----|-----2h4p2-|---2---0-|
A--0---0---|-----|---0--3h4-----|---0---4-----|
E-----+-----+-----+

```

B7 B7 E E7 F7 E7

```

E--2--2-2-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+
B-----0---|---4---2-0---|-----|---3-----|
G-----|-----1-|-----0-1-----|---1--8--7-|
D---1-----1-|---4-----4---|---2-----2---|---7--6-|
A--2-----|---2-----|-----|---8--7-|
E-----2-----+-----2-----+0-----0-----+0-----+

```

Chorus

A D F7 A (Am)

```

E-----+-----5-----+-----+
B--2-----2---|---3---4---|---5--7---7p5---|-----1p0-|
G--2-----|---2---5---|-----6-|-----|
D---2-----2-|---4---3-|---7-----7---|---7-----2-|
A--0-----|---0---0-|---0-|---0-|
E-----0-----+-----0-----+-----0-----+

```

D7 A (NC)

```

E-----+-----+-----+---0-2s3s2-0-----+
B---0---1-0---|---0---1-0---|-----|-----1h2-|
G--2---2-----|---2---2-----2-|-----0-|---2-----|
D---0---0---0-|---0---0---0-|---2h4---4-2-|-----|
A-----|-----|---0-----3h4-|-----|
E--2-----2-----+2-----2-----+-----+

```

E A (NC)

```

E--0-----+-----+-----+
B---0-----|---1-2-1-2-1p0---|-----2-|-----|
G-----|-----2-|-----2-|-----|
D---2-----2-|---2-----2-|---2-----2-|---5s4--2-|
A-----|-----|---0-----3h4-|-----|
E--0-----0-----+0-----0-----+0-----+

```

e e q e e q

A D F7 A (Am)

```

E-----+-----5-----+-----+
B--2-----2---|---3---4---|---5--7---7p5---|-----1p0-|
G-----|---2---5---|-----6-|-----|
D---2-----2-|---4---3-|---7-----7---|---7-----2-|
A--0-----|---0---0-|---0-|---0-0-|
E-----0-----+-----0-----+-----+

```

D7 A (NC)

```

E-----+-----+-----+---0-2s3s2-0-----+
B---0---1-0---|---0---1-0---|-----|-----1h2-|
G--2---2-----|---2---2-----2-|-----0-|---2-----|
D---0---0---0-|---0---0---0-|---2h4---4-2-|-----|
A-----|-----|---0-----3h4-|-----|
E--2-----2-----+2-----2-----+-----+

```

E	A	(NC)
E--0-----+-----+-----+		
B-----0----- ---1-2-1-2-1p0--- ----- ---2--3--4---		
G----- -----2- -----0----- ---2-----		
D-----2-----2- -----2-----2- ---2h4---4-2--- -----4--5---		
A----- ----- ---0-----3h4- -----		
E--0-----0-----+0-----0-----+-----+		

E	A	(NC)
E--0-----+-----+-----+		
B-----0----- ---1-2-1-2-1p0--- ----- ---2--3--4---		
G----- -----2- -----0----- ---2-----		
D-----2-----2- -----2-----2- ---2h4---4-2--- -----4--5---		
A----- ----- ---0-----3h4- -----		
E--0-----0-----+0-----0-----+-----+		

E7	(NC)
E--0-----+0-----0-----+-----5---++	
B-----0----- ---6--7----- ----- ---0-1s2---	
G-----8--7----- -----2- -----0----- ---2-----	
D-----6-----6- -----6-----6- ---2h4---4-2--- -----	
A----- ----- ---0-----3h4- -----	
E--0-----0-----+0-----0-----+-----0---++	