

HOEDOWNER

Tune of the Month

Old French

AKA "Little Old Man,"
"Old French Reel,"
"Rambler's Hornpipe,"
"Reel de St-Tite."

The original provenance is in Québécois repertoire; Reel (usually) or Hornpipe. USA, New England. D Major.

Thanks to Jeannette Bondsteel for this month's TOTM selection

The melody was a popular vehicle for contra dancing in the 1970's, when it seemed to surface simultaneously in New England repertoire and on the West Coast, where it was popularized by mandolin player Kenny Hall and others. Popular belief has it that the "Old French" title derived from a remark by an old Vermont fiddler who, when asked its title, said it was "just an old French tune." Ken Perlman (1979) believed the tune was unknown in Canada and speculated that it was probably a northern New England composition in the Québec style. The apocryphal Vermont fiddler seems to have had it right, for the reel was known in Canada prior to the "folk revival" that fed American contra dancing.

Another version has part A in D major and part B in A Mixolydian https://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Old_French

Ila Mae Carmickle of our District 6 leads plays Old French: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iowsmnbrkXE>

This version is arranged by our own Chip Cohen and can be found in his wonderful book of tunes Tall Tales and Twin Fiddles Vol II where he has added a nice harmony line. Chip dedicated this tune to the memory of Mark French, with whom he shared many fine adventures. They explored the wilds of the great Northwest together and played music from California to Colorado to Canada. Mark loved a good rollicking tune, and this is one they often played:

<http://www.chipcohenmusic.com/>

Thank you, Chip.

Old French

Traditonal
Arranged by Chip Cohen

Violin 1

Violin 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 1

Vln. 2