

Patent Leather Waltz

air: Golden Slippers in waltz time

arr. Lynn Noel from oral histories of the Tilton, NH shoe factories

1
Down comes the stamp - ing press, round goes the pul - ley, and

5
on - to my last comes the sole of a boot_____

9
Piece it and stitch it, ce - ment it and lace it, and

13
Off of the line rolls a brown lea - ther boot._____

17
Lost___ in the rhy - thm of last - ing for ho - urs I'm

21
stamp - ing and stitch - ing and last - ing 'til Sa - tur - day

25
night___ When I leave off these brown lea - ther but - ton boots

29
Then___ you'll see___ my shoes of pa - tent lea - ther waltz.____

33

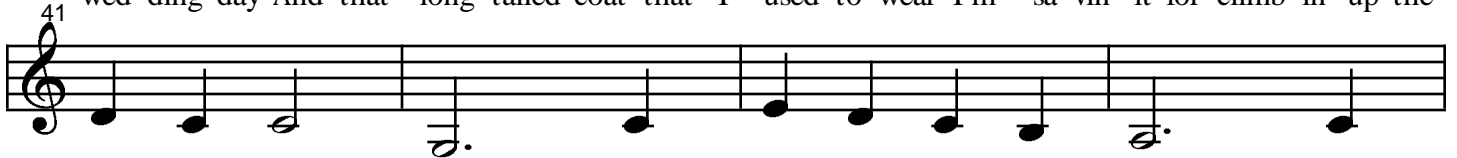
Bridge (after verse 3)



Oh, them gol - den slip - pers are laid a - way And I ain't gon - na wear 'em 'til my



wed - ding day And that long - tailed coat that I used to wear I'm sa - vin' it for climb - in' up the



gol - den stair. Oh, them gol - den slip - pers, oh, them



gol - den slip - pers, gol - den slip - pers I'm gon - na wear be - cause they look so



neat on my feet Oh, them gol - den slip - pers, oh, them



gol - den slip - pers, gol - den slip - pers I'm gon - na wear to cross the gol - den

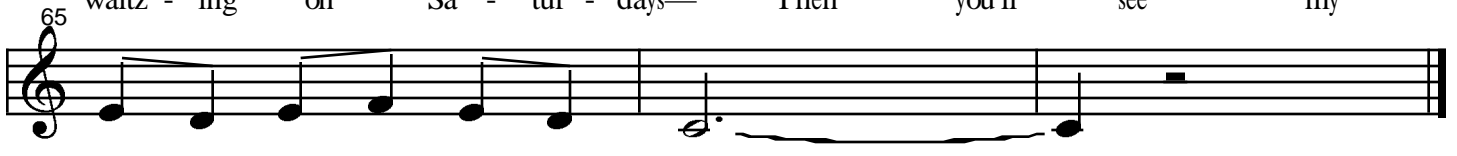
Coda (with a slight ritard.)



street. Give me pa - tent lea - ther for



waltz - ing on Sa - tur - days— Then you'll see my



shoes of pa - tent lea - ther waltz.

Patent Leather Waltz

Down comes the stamping press, round goes the pulley,
and onto my last comes the sole of a boot
Piece it and stitch it, cement it and lace it, and
Off of the line rolls a brown leather boot.

REFRAIN

*Lost in the rhythm, I'm lasting for hours
Of stamping and stitching and lasting 'til Saturday night
When I leave off these brown leather button boots
Then you'll see my shoes of patent leather waltz.*

Wonderful waltzes and two-steps and tangos
I'm lighter than air in my patent leather shoes
Then come Monday, it's back to my last, and I'm
Nailed to the floor in my brown leather boots.

REFRAIN

Every day on the line my hands make hundreds
My feet have just one pair of brown leather boots
The toes let the rain in, there's newspaper lining
The holes in the soles of my brown leather boots.

REFRAIN

Oh, so sensible, sturdy and practical
Made by the thousands, these brown leather boots
Give me patent leather for waltzing on Saturdays
Then you'll see my shoes of patent leather waltz.

(cut time, brighter tempo)

Oh, them golden slippers are laid away
And I ain't gonna wear 'em 'til my wedding day
And that long-tailed coat that I used to wear
I'm savin' it for climbin' up the golden stair.

*Oh, them golden slippers, oh, them golden slippers,
Golden slippers I'm gonna wear
Because they look so neat on my feet
Oh, them golden slippers, oh, them golden slippers,
Golden slippers I'm gonna wear to cross the golden street.*

(back to waltz time)

Give me patent leather for waltzing on Saturdays
Then you'll see my shoes of patent leather waltz.

NOTES ON THE SONGMAKING

This song was made in the third year of an ongoing residency with the Belknap Mill in Laconia, NH. After two cycles of working directly with the Mill's education program, the Laconia Chamber of Commerce proposed and sponsored a combination outreach/research program to four nursing homes in the Lakes Region, to present the songs composed so far and collect more oral histories.

We had identified many residents who had come from French Quebec to in the textile mills in Laconia; on this tour, we met another group who worked in the shoe factories in nearby Tilton. They decided that a shoe song would be a logical followup to our stocking song! They told of their poverty in the Thirties, when they owned only one pair of the hated, ugly boots they made all day; but on the weekends they loved to go dancing at the community hall in shiny black patent leather slippers. When asked what tunes they remembered dancing to, they chorused, "oh, those wonderful waltzes!" and named "Golden Slippers."

Well, it may not have been a waltz originally, but they obviously remembered it that way, so here it is: Golden Slippers in waltz time, with the true story of how "golden slippers" are made in Tilton, NH.