

St. James Infirmary

The Firehouse Jazz Band

Concert Pitch

Published as if written by Joe Primrose in 1928. Actually based on old British song "The Unfortunate Rake" from the 18th century. Collected in early 1900's by John Lomax. There are dozens of verses added over the years.

Rec: Louis Armstrong 1929, Joe "King" Oliver 1930, Alex Hill (w/ Jabbo Smith, trmpt.) 1929, Jack Teagarden, Dukes of Dixieland, etc.

A Verse:

When will I ev - er stop moan - in'? When will I ev - er smile?
 My ba - by went and left me, She'll be gone a long, long while.
 I feel so blue and heart - brok - en, What am I liv - ing for?
 My ba - by went and left me, Nev - er to come back no more. I went

B

down to the Saint James In - firm - 'ry, My ba - by there she lay, Laid
 "What is my ba - by's chan - ces?" I asked old Doc - tor Sharp, She can
 go, let her go, God bless her, Where - ev - er she may be. She can
 out on a cold mar - ble ta - ble, Well, I looked and I turned a - way.
 "Boy, by six o' - clock this eve - nin', she'll be play - in' her gold - en harp". Let her
 hunt this wide world o - ver, But she'll nev - er find a man like me.

1. I went down to St. James Infirm'ry.

All was still as night,
 My gal was on the table,
 Stretched out so pale, so white.
 Tho' she treated me mean and lowdown,
 Somehow I didn't care,
 My soul is sick and weary,
 I hope we meet again up there. (CHORUS:)

CHORUS: Let her go, let her go, God bless her,
 Wherever she may be,
 She can hunt this wide world over,
 But she'll never find a man like me.

2. Sixteen coal-black horses,

Hitched to a rubber-tired hack,
 Carried seven girls to the graveyard,
 And brought only six of them back.
 Now when I die, please bury me,
 In my milk-white Stetson hat,
 With a five-dollar gold piece on my watch chain,
 So they'll know I died standin' pat. (CHORUS:)

3. Six poker dealers for pall bearers,

Let a whore sing my funeral song,
 With a red hot band just beatin' it out,
 Raisin' hell as we roll along.
 Now I may drowned in the ocean,
 May be killed by a cannonball,
 But let me tell you buddy,
 A woman was the cause of it all. (CHORUS:)