I Never Will Marry

As sung by
Winifred Bundy
04-29-1941

Verse 1.
I never will marry a man who is poor.
He’d keep me a-beggin’ from door to door.

Chorus
Shiveroo li-tee,
diddy dum-dum diddy dum dum
Diddy dum dum dod-ee
Shiveroo and a-roo.

Verse 2.
I never will marry a farmer’s son,
For a farmer’s work is never done.

Verse 3.
I never will marry a man who gets drunk
He sits in a corner and smells like a skunk.

Verse 4.
I never will marry at all, at all,
But go to a feast in Old Maid’s Hall.

Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.

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Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 173, and HST.

HST notes:
In the Professional Papers series:
Sung by Winifred Bundy, age 57, Madison, 1941.
Miss Bundy learned this song from hearing her grandparents sing it. She recalls that there were endless verses with the singer making up new ones to suit the occasion.
Editor’s notes:
Collector Eloise Hubbard Linscott writes, “a companion piece to the present song is supposed to be sung by the man who would not marry a thin woman since her neck would be long and she would never die” (Linscott 211).

Alternate titles/related songs: “I’ll Not Marry at All.”

Sources:

K.G.