

Paradise

John Prine



G C
When I was a child my family
G
would travel
Down to Western Kentucky
D7 G
where my parents were born

And there's a backwards old town
C G
that's often remembered
D7
So many times that my memories
G
are worn.

[CHORUS]
Papa won't you take me back to
Muhlenberg County
Down by the Green River where
Paradise lay
Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too
late in asking
Mister Peabody's coal train just hauled
it away

Well, sometimes we'd travel right
down the Green River
To the abandoned old prison down by
Adrie Hill
Where the air smelled like snakes and
we'd shoot with our pistols
But empty pop bottles was all we
would kill.

[REPEAT CHORUS]

Then the coal company came with the
world's largest shovel
And they tortured the timber and
stripped all the land
Well, they dug for their coal till the
land was forsaken
Then they wrote it all down as the
progress of man.

[REPEAT CHORUS]

When I die let my ashes float down
the Green River
Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester
dam
I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise
waitin'
Just five miles away from wherever I
am.

[REPEAT CHORUS]