Paradise

John Prine

D G D
When I was a child, my family would travel
D A D
Down to western Kentucky where my parents were born.
D G D
There's a backwoods old town there that's often remembered
D A D
So many times that my memories are worn.

And Daddy, won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County,
Down by the Green River, where Paradise lay?
I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking.
Mister Peabody's coal train has 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.

Chorus

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

Chorus

When I die, let my ashes float doen the Green River,
Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester Dam
I'll be halfway to heaven with Paradise waiting
Just five miles away from wherever I am.
Chorus