

PARADISE  
(MUHLENBERG  
COUNTY)  
JOHN PRINE

[C] When I was a child my [F] family would [C] travel  
Down to Western Kentucky where my [G] parents were [C] born  
And there's a backwards old town that's [F] often re[C]membered  
So many times that my [G] memories are [C] worn.

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

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

*{chorus}*

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

*{chorus}*

When I die let my ashes float [F] down the Green [C] River  
Let my soul roll on up to the [G] Rochester [C] dam  
I'll be halfway to Heaven with [F] Paradise [C] waiting  
Just five miles away from [G] wherever I [C] am. *{chorus}*