

Paradise

John Prine

When I was a child, my family would travel
To western Kentucky, where my parents were born
There's a backward old town that's often remembered
So many times that my memories are worn

CHORUS:

**And daddy won't you take me back to Mulenberg county
Down by the Green River, where Paradise lay
I'm sorry my son, but you're too late as askin'
Mr. Peabody's coal train has hauled it away**

Sometimes we'd travel right down to the Green River
To abandoned old prison down by Avery Hill
Where the air smelled like snakes, we'd shot with our pistols
But empty pop bottles was all we could kill

CHORUS

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

CHORUS

When I die let my ashes flow 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 where I am

CHORUS