**John Prine: Paradise**

1 When I was a child my family would travel

2 Down to Western Kentucky where my parents were born

3 And there's a backwards old town that's often remembered

4 So many times that my memories are worn

5 And daddy won't you take me back to Muhlenberg County

6 Down by the Green River where Paradise lay

7 Well, I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking

8 Mister Peabody's coal train has hauled it away

9 Well, sometimes we'd travel right down the Green River

10 To the abandoned old prison down by Airdrie Hill

11 Where the air smelled like snakes and we'd shoot with our pistols

12 But empty pop bottles was all we would kill

13 Then the coal company came with the world's largest shovel

14 And they tortured the timber and stripped all the land

15 Well, they dug for their coal till the land was forsaken

16 Then they wrote it all down as the progress of man

17 When I die let my ashes float down the Green River

18 Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester dam

19 I'll be halfway to Heaven with Paradise waitin'

20 Just five miles away from wherever I am

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