Paradise (By John Prine)

D G D
When I was a child, my family would travel
D A7 D
Down to western Kentucky, where my parents were born
G D
There’s a backwards-old town that’s often remembered
D A7 D
So many times that my memories are worn

Chorus:

D G D
And Daddy, won’t you take me back to Muehlenburg County
A7 D
Down by the Green River where Paradise lay
D G D
Well, I’m sorry, my son, but you’re too late in asking
A7 D
Mr. Peabody’s coal train has hauled it away

D G D
Sometimes we’d travel right down the Green River
A7 D
To the abandoned old prison down by Adrie Hill
D G D
Where the air smelled like snakes
A7 D
And we’d shoot with our pistols
D A7 D
But empty pop bottles was all we would kill

(REPEAT CHORUS)

(Instrumental Break)

D G D
The coal company came with the world’s largest shovel
A7 D
And they tortured the timber and stripped all the land
D G D
And they dug for the coal, ‘til the land was forsaken
A7 D
They wrote it all down as the progress of man

(REPEAT CHORUS)

D G D
When I die, let my ashes float down the Green River
A7 D
Let my soul roll on up to the Rochester Dam
G D
I’ll be halfway to heaven with Paradise waiting
A7 D
Just five miles away from wherever I am

(REPEAT CHORUS)