

# Ballad of Thunder Road

Mark Collie

Now let me tell a story, I can tell it all  
About the mountain boy who ran illegal alcohol  
His daddy made the whiskey, the son, he drove the load  
And when his engine roared, they called the highway thunder road  
Sometimes into Ashville, sometimes  
Memphis Town  
The revenuers, they chased him, but they couldn't run him down  
Each time they thought they had him, his engine would explode  
He'd go by like they were standing still on thunder road  
There was thunder, thunder over thunder road  
Thunder was his engine and white lightning was his load  
There was moonshine, moonshine to quench the devil's thirst  
The law they swore they'd get him, but the devil got him first  
On the first of April, 1954  
The federal man sent word, he better make his run no more  
He said two hundred agents were covering the state  
Whichever road he'd try to take, they'd get him sure as fate  
'Son', his daddy told him, 'Now make this run your  
last  
Your tank is filled with a hundred proof, you're all tuned up and gassed  
Now don't take any chances, if you can't get through  
I'd rather have you back again than all that mountain dew?  
There was thunder, thunder over thunder road  
Thunder was his engine and white lightning was his load  
There was moonshine, moonshine to quench the devil's thirst  
The law they swore they'd get him, but the devil got him first  
Roaring out of Harlan, revving up his mill  
He shot the gap at Cumberland and screamed through Maynardville  
With G-men on his tail light, roadblocks up ahead  
The mountain boy took roads that even angels feared to tread  
Blazing right through Knoxville, out on Kingston  
Pike  
Then right outside of Bearden, there they made the fatal strike  
He left the road at ninety, that's all there is to say  
The devil got the moonshine and the mountain boy that day  
There was thunder, thunder over thunder road  
Thunder was his engine and white lightning was his load  
There was moonshine, moonshine to quench the devil's thirst  
The law they swore they'd get him, but the devil got him first

Songwriters

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