

Let Him Go On Mama

Songwriters: John Hartford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyUxFhVsW2A>

G Well he likes black coffee, fried eggs
And a **D7** well done T-bone steak
D7 He like a red dress and pearly white teeth
And the **C** flash of a pretty brown **G** leg

C He said back in the '30s, you know
G You never had it made
He's an **A7** engineer over on the Ohio river
D7 Runnin' in the Pittsburgh trade

G With the inspection office in Louisville
D7 At a desk for a very short time
D7 And he played in a band on two different boats
C Working for the Strackfus **G** line

C And long ago he smoked reefer
G And he even made home brew
And the **A7** reefer come in through New Orleans
D7 Back before World War II

[Chorus]

G He's just a feller worked on the river
D7 All his life by a paddle wheel
D7 You say he's old fashioned
Well **C** that ain't no big **G** deal

Well **C** it's too thick to navigate
And **G** it's too thin to plow
So **G** let him go on **D7** mama
And don't **G** put him **D7** down for it **G** now

[instrumental]

G Well he sits there an' smokes an old I-bolt cigar
Says he **D7** doesn't miss it at all
D7 But he still goes out and he makes a few trips
In the **C** summer and then in the **G** fall

Oh, the **C** railroad trains, the bus and planes
G Been takin' up all the slack
A7 He's been watching all those river towns
D7 Slowly turn their backs

[Chorus]

G He's just a feller worked on the river
D7 All his life by a paddle wheel
D7 You say he's old fashioned
Well **C** that ain't no big **G** deal

Well **C** it's too thick to navigate
And **G** it's too thin to plow
So **G** let him go on **D7** mama
And don't **G** put him **D7** down for it **G** now

G Well he comes from a real old-time way of life
D7 He had to fight to just learn how
D7 And he might even have voted for Nixon once
But I'm **C** sure he sees that **G** now

C Well Friday night he makes the best damn Gumbo
You'd **G** ever want to eat
A7 And Saturday morning 'fore everyone's up
He's **D7** gone off down to the fleet

[Chorus]

G He's just a feller worked on the river
D7 All his life by a paddle wheel
D7 You say he's old fashioned
Well **C** that ain't no big **G** deal

Well **C** it's too thick to navigate
And **G** it's too thin to plow
So **G** let him go on **D7** mama
And don't **G** put him **D7** down for it **G** now

G You're as pretty as he is ugly
D7 And he's the happiest man alive
D7 You've got him into believing
That old **C** men are back in **G** style

C Now you see these Oysters Bienville
G And this baked potato skin
A7 I eat 'em so I can grow up an' be
D7 An old man just like him

[Chorus]

G He's just a feller worked on the river
D7 All his life by a paddle wheel
D7 You say he's old fashioned
Well C that ain't no big G deal

Well C it's too thick to navigate
And G it's too thin to plow
So G let him go on D7 mama
And don't G put him D7 down for it G now