

## The Ballad of Thunder Road (Don Raye / Robert Mitchum)

**C**  
Let me tell the story, I can tell it all;  
**Dm G7 C**  
About the mountain boy who ran illegal alcohol.

**C**  
His daddy made the whiskey,  
the son he drove the load;  
**Dm G7**  
And when his engine roared  
**C Dm C**  
They called the highway "Thunder Road".

**C**  
Sometimes into Ashville,  
Sometimes Memphis town.  
**Dm G7**  
The Revenuers chased him  
**C**  
But they couldn't run him down.

**C**  
Each time they thought they had him  
His engine would explode.  
**Dm G7**  
He'd go by like they were standing  
**C Dm C**  
Still on "Thunder Road".

### Chorus:

**F**  
And there was thunder, thunder  
**C F G7**  
Over "Thunder Road", Thunder was his engine  
**C C7**  
And white lightening was his load.  
**F**  
And there was moonshine, moonshine  
**C**  
To quench the devil's thirst.  
**Dm G7**  
The law they swore they'd get him  
**C**  
But the devil got him first.

**C**  
It was on the first of April, Nineteen-Fifty-Four  
**Dm G7**  
The Federal man sent word  
**C**  
He'd better make his run no more.  
**C**  
He said "200 agents were covering the state;

**Dm G7**  
Which ever road he tried to take  
**C Dm C**  
They'd get him sure as fate."

**C**  
'Son' his daddy told him, 'make this run your last.  
**Dm G7**  
The tank is filled with 100 proof;  
**C**  
You're all tuned-up and gassed.

**C**  
Now don't take any chances, if you can't get  
through.  
**Dm G7**  
I'd rather have you back again  
**C Dm C**  
Than all that Mountain Dew.'

### (Chorus)

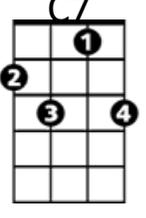
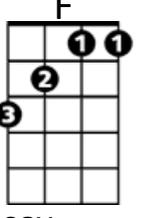
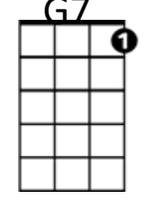
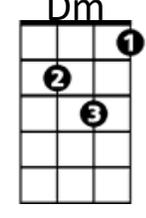
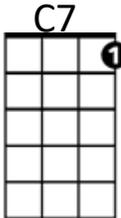
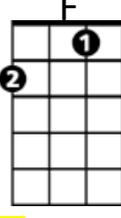
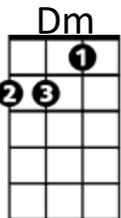
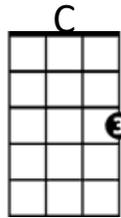
**C**  
Roaring out of Harlan; revving up his mill.  
**Dm G7**  
He shot the Gap at Cumberland  
**C**  
And streamed by Maynardville.  
**C**  
With G men on his tail light; road block up ahead,  
**Dm G7**  
The mountain boy took roads  
**C Dm C**  
That even angels fear to tread.

**C**  
Blazing right through Knoxville, out on Kingston  
Pike,  
**Dm G7**  
Then right outside of Bearden,  
**C**  
They made the fatal strike.

**C**  
He left the road at 90; that's all there is to say,  
**Dm G7**  
The devil got the moonshine  
**C Dm C**  
And the mountain boy that day.

### (Chorus) 2X

**Dm G7**  
The law they swore they'd get him  
**F Dm C**  
But the devil got him first.



BARITONE