

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

**G**  
Let me tell the story, I can tell it all;  
**Am D7 G**  
About the mountain boy who ran illegal alcohol.

**G**  
His daddy made the whiskey,  
the son he drove the load;  
**Am D7**  
And when his engine roared  
**G Am G**  
They called the highway "Thunder Road".

**G**  
Sometimes into Ashville,  
Sometimes Memphis town.

**Am D7**  
The Revenuers chased him  
**G**  
But they couldn't run him down.

**G**  
Each time they thought they had him  
His engine would explode.

**Am D7**  
He'd go by like they were standing  
**G Am G**  
Still on "Thunder Road".

## Chorus:

**C**  
And there was thunder, thunder  
**G C D7**  
Over "Thunder Road", Thunder was his engine  
**G G7**  
And white lightening was his load.

**C**  
And there was moonshine, moonshine  
**G**  
To quench the devil's thirst.

**Am D7**  
The law they swore they'd get him  
**G**  
But the devil got him first.

**G**  
It was on the first of April, Nineteen-Fifty-Four

**Am D7**  
The Federal man sent word  
**G**  
He'd better make his run no more.  
**G**

He said "200 agents were covering the state;

**Am D7**  
Which ever road he tried to take  
**G Am G**  
They'd get him sure as fate."

**G**  
'Son' his daddy told him, 'make this run your last.

**Am D7**  
The tank is filled with 100 proof;  
**G**  
You're all tuned-up and gassed.

**G**  
Now don't take any chances, if you can't get  
through.

**Am D7**  
I'd rather have you back again  
**G Am G**  
Than all that Mountain Dew.' **Chorus**

**G**  
Roaring out of Harlan; revving up his mill.

**Am D7**  
He shot the Gap at Cumberland  
**G**  
And streamed by Maynardville.

**G**  
With G men on his tail light; road block up  
ahead,

**Am D7**  
The mountain boy took roads  
**G Am G**  
That even angels fear to tread.

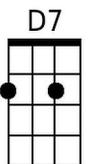
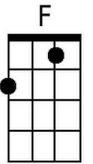
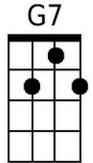
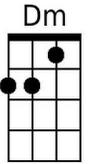
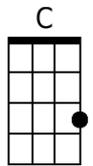
**G**  
Blazing right through Knoxville, out on Kingston  
Pike,

**Am D7**  
Then right outside of Bearden,  
**G**  
They made the fatal strike.

**G**  
He left the road at 90; that's all there is to say,

**Am D7**  
The devil got the moonshine  
**G Am G**  
And the mountain boy that day. **Chorus (2X)**

**Am D7**  
The law they swore they'd get him  
**C Am G**  
But the devil got him first.



Bari

