

# C&O Canal

(John Starling)

Up from the night in the shanty saloons  
He remembers the night of the boatman's tunes  
It's all a part of the boatman's soul  
As the smell of the dust  
Of the Cumberland coal

With a three-mule team he winds his way  
Through the Pawpaw Tunnel, about mid-day  
Passing locks in the rain and fog  
His thoughts on nights  
At the Salty Dog

Hey, hey, hey -- lock ready!  
Oh, hey -- hey, lock!  
These words like the lock-house, covered in time  
Live on for us in an old man's mind  
Never, no more, on the C & O Canal Line  
Mm-mm-mm

Doomed by the rail from the very start  
His boat still lives in the people's heart  
We've a debt to pay and a promise to keep  
To save his way  
From an endless sleep

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