

John Henry

Howard Armstrong

John Henry was a baby boy
Set on his pappy's knee
With this song "I know some time
This hammer's gonna be the death of me, y'all
Hammer's got to be the death of me
Hammer's gonna be the death of me this morning
Hammer's gonna be the death of me"

You know, John Henry told his steel shaker
"Boy, did you ever pray?
If I miss this piece of tall steel
Morrow's gonna be your buryin' day
Morrow's gonna be your buryin' day" (2x)

Now, John Henry was driving steel in the tunnel
Said, "I believe the roof is caving in."
He said, "Captain, play it cool
Don't you be no fool
Nothing but my hammer sucking wind, y'all
Nothing but my hammer sucking wing
It ain't nothing but this old hammer sucking wind
Nothing but my hammer sucking wind."

"Where did you get that red dress that you wear?
Pretty little shoes so fine?"
"I got my shoes from a railroad man
Dress from that man in the mine
Dress from that man in the mine (2x)

You know, John Henry had a little old woman
Her name it was Polly Ann
John Henry lay sick in his bed
Polly drove steel like a steel-driving man
Polly drove steel just like a man
Polly drove steel like a man
Polly drove steel like a man

You know, John Henry had a little bitty woman
Dress that she wore was cherry red
Went down that track and she never looked back
Said, "Going where that man fell dead, y'all
Going where that man fell dead (2x)