

THE OHIO RIVER RAMBLIN' RAFT RACE

Well, all gather 'round in the Bluegrass State, gonna tell about a day that's gonna be great,
In the State of Kentucky in a beautiful place, it's the Ohio River Ramblin' Raft Race.
Well the Kentucky folks are all in gear, and the day of the Raft Race's almost here,
Yeah the folks gather 'round from all over the place, for the Ohio River Ramblin' Raft Race.

I's settin' round the house just roasin' in the summer and a-twiddlin' m' thumbs and a-thinkin' what a bummer,
When I heard a feller talkin' on WAKY radio, sayin', "Git y'sef a raft, that's the only way to go
To the Ramblin' Raft Race, comin' real soon" And as shore as I'm a-settin' here a-pickin' this tune,
He said, "You can hep y'sef and have a good time too!" and the way he talked it sounded like the proper thing to do.

He said "Set y'feet a-walkin' with y'vim and y'vigger," and somethin' that he said gave a tug to my trigger,
So I fared up in Chevy and I took a little journey, got a barrel and a log and a board, Gall Durn'e
Waddn' kiddin' 'bout the Raft Race, gonna be good, put the pieces all together so they float like they should,
Got 'er lookin' so purty, but I don't wanna gloat, yeah, enough of this jabber, now, I wanna see it float!

I built that raft with an alligator grin, and a corncob pipe like a-Huckleberry Finn,
And a head and a galley and a color TV, and a keg and a 47 Channel CB . . .
Uh, you got a copy, now, breaker, breaker, breaker, done built me a raft, gonna load 'er up an' take 'er
On the back of m'truck to the Ohio, 'n then float down the river, that's a big ten-fo.

Now, come on, hammer down, 47 channel, said Huckleberry Finn, now, that's my handle,
And Louisville's my 20, with a great big laugh, in a convoy made of a thousand rafts!
Log raft, oil drum, inner tube or boat, g'won, put 'er in, Hot Dang! long as it'll float,
Then I pumped up the keg, got ready for the trip, and I drew me a Bud and I said, "Let 'er Rip!"

Cranked up my truck, and I felt real fine, and I tuned my dial to the Super 79,
Gonna launch that raft, gonna float that chugger, gonna paddle down the river with a Louisville Slugger.
They's all kinds of rafts and I tell ya what am, this thing's lookin' bigger than the Derby Eye Jam,
In the great outs doors I's a-ruffin' and a-tuffin', on the Ohio just smokin' and a-puffin'.

They'us people on boats and jeeps on floats and skippers and crews and flippers and canoes,
And beds and cots all floatin' like yachts, and rafts with rails and bedsheet sails.
Pontoons, rowboats, stern wheel paddlers, Vikings, slowboats, bicycle straddlers,
The Colonial, Secretariat, and ole Pee Wee, and a boxin' ring with the Great Ali.

Then I figgered that I didn't wanna go it all alone, so I made up a list and I picked up the phone,
And I called everybody that'd do it for grins, and I wound up callin' up 42 friends!
And I told 'em "Git a-movin'!" and I waddn just a-funnin' and I peeked out the phone booth and there they come a-runnin'.
And before I could even git back to the road, ever' one of my 42 friends had showed!

With flutes and tubas and tanks and scubas and piccolos, dobros, Beech Nut and Tube Rose,
Fourteen banjos and right in the middle was a mandolin, a harp, and a double bass fiddle!
Then I studied and I figgered and I nearly went daft, floatin' 43 people on a 12-foot raft,
Then we all got busy from the foam to the dregs, gonna float this sucker on empty kegs!

That's the end of my tale, and it ain't no lie, 'cause you heard it on WAKY,
But I told a little fib, what I said before, this ain't the end, I gonna do some more!

I said paddlin' skedaddlin' ever' which a-way, in a home-made raft all the live-long day,
From Cox's Park all the way to Eva Bandman, wind it up, y'all, gimme a hand, man!
Pole it, paddle it, roll it, rattle it, fan it, sail it, man it, bail it,
Wheel it, keel it, shuffle up and deal it, laugh it, love it, live it, feel it!
How many times do ya ever get a chance, when it's too wet to plow and y' shore can't dance,
Just to do y'sef a favor, it's the only way to go, to the Ramblin' Race on the Ohio!