

Casey [and] Bill

Earl McDonald's Original Louisville Jug Band (1927)

Now down the river came Steamboat Bill
Spies Casey Jones coming over the hill
The engine was puffing and the boiler was hot
While the folks on board did the turkey trot

The railroad ran along side the bank
Casey crawled out from behind the tank
Bill said to Casey, "You're a racing man"
Get up your steam and go as fast as you can"

Now Casey and Bill, down the Mississippi
Casey and Bill, all full of glee
Casey and Bill, down the Mississippi
Trying to break the record of the Robert E. Lee

Now down the river about a mile below
There was a bridge where they had to go
They both were running 'bout neck and neck
When they reached this bridge there's gonna be a wreck

Casey reached up, the whistle he blew
The drawbridge opened for to let him through
They both came together and they both must die
Because the race was over and it was a tie

Chorus

Jug solo (chorus chords)

Now in the wreck it was a shame
Was no one that knew their name
When the wives got the message their husbands were dead
They both raised the river with the tears they shed

The little kids didn't seem to bother
When someone told them that they lost their father
One said to the other, "Don't cry and fret
We don't need no Daddy, Ma's a suffragette"

Chorus

And when they died, no one know
Up to heaven is where they wanted to go
Saint Peter says, "Boys, you must relate
Something good that you've done to put you through this gate"

Bill says, "I know at one time
I gave twenty cents to a man who was blind"
Saint Peter says, "You know, that don't go Bill
So you can take your twenty cents and go to Jeffersonville"

Chorus

Jug solo (chorus chords), with "shave and a haircut" ending

verse:

F, Bb-C

F, G

F, Bb

F, C-F

chorus:

F, F

F, F-C

F, F

Bb-F, C-F