

Talking Columbia-crd  
 Words and music Woody Guthrie  
 Released on Columbia River  
 Collection (1988) and The Asch  
 Recordings, Vol. 3; Hard Travelin' (1998)

Capo fret 3

Intro

	F	Bb	C/G	F	(x2)
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F Bb  
 I was down long the river, just settin' on a rock,  
 C/G F  
 Lookin' at the boats in Bonneville Lock.

Bb  
 And the gate swings open and the barge sails in,  
 C/G F  
 Toots her whistle, she's gone a gin'!  
 Bb C/G F  
 Galosine goin' up, wheat comin' down.

Well, I fills up my hat brim, drunk a little taste,  
 Thought bout the river goin' to waste,  
 Thought bout the dust, thought bout the sand,  
 Thought bout the people, thought bout the land.  
 Folks runnin' round all over creation,  
 Just lookin' for a little place somthing to do.

Water come a splashin' throught the dam,  
 Trickling down across the land,  
 Powerhouse sings a generator whines,  
 Down the hill comes the big power lines.  
 'lectricity runnin' all around, cheaper than rainwater.

Lots of folks around the country, politicians and such,  
 Said the old comlumbia wouldn't never amount to much.  
 Fellas back east are doin' a lot o' talkin',  
 Some of em balkin' and some of em squawkin'  
 But with all their figgerin' and all their books,  
 Well, they just didn't know them raw Chinooks.  
 It's a good river just needs a couple 'a  
 more dozen big power dams scattered up and  
 down it keepin' folks busy

Pulled out my pencil, I scribbled this song,  
 I figgered all these salmon just couldn't be wrong.  
 Them salmon fish, they're mighty shrewd,  
 They got senators, politicians, too!  
 Just like a President, they run ever' four years.

Yes, them folks back east are doin' a lot o' talkin',  
 Some of em balkin' and some of em squawkin'  
 But with all their figgerin' and all their books,  
 Well, they just didn't know them raw Chinooks.  
 Salmon! That's a good river!

Just watch this river though pretty soon  
 Ever'body's goin' to be changin' their tune.  
 The big Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dam  
 Ah gonna need lots more of them scattered all over the land.

Just a drop in the bucket need dams at yumatilla rapids,  
, foster creek and rocky reach and arlington and  
and a thousand other factories.  
Turnin out everything from fertilizer to atomic  
bedrooms and plastic trimmings and everything ough'ta be plastic

Well the folks need houses and stuff to eat,  
And the folks need the metals and the folks need the wheat.  
Folks need water and power dams  
And the folks need the people and the people need the land.  
This whole big pacific north-west up in here ough'ta be run way I see it  
By e-lec-a-tri-ci-ty  
And this here same electricity ough'ta jumpa and  
crackle and sparkle and jump 5 lengths around the whole world.