

# The Gallopin' Goose

C.W. McCall

On a cold November mornin'  
Back in nineteen-thirty-seven  
With an early snow a-fallin'  
On the three-foot tracks at Ames  
Came a mighty strange contraption  
Known to trainmen as a motor  
But to folks in Colorado  
She was known by another name  
Up the canyons south of Sawpit  
Past the red Cathedral spires  
'Cross the yellow mountain switchbacks  
And the rapids far below  
On the high and lofty trestles  
Near the fabled mines of Ophir  
In the silver San Juan Mountains  
Came a goose a-plowin' snow  
[Chorus]  
With a Pierce-Arrow engine,  
Runnin' hot and on the loose  
Came the Rio Grande Southern  
The Gallopin' Goose  
With a Pierce-Arrow engine  
Runnin' hot and on the loose  
Came Number Five, The Gallopin' Goose  
'Twas a four-door auto-mobile  
On a dozen wheels of iron  
Sixteen feet of rockin' boxcar  
Spot-welded to her tail  
Loaded down with mercantile  
Ten bags a' high-grade ore  
Two mothers nursin' babies  
Seven miners an' the mail  
Up the side a' Sunshine Mountain  
By internal gas combustion  
Eight Pierce-Arrow pistons pullin'  
Fifteen thousand pounds a' lead  
At the snowshed on the summit  
The conductor said his prayers  
He declared a busted driveshaft  
On the pass at Lizard Head  
[Chorus]  
With a Pierce-Arrow engine  
Runnin' hot and on the loose  
Came the Rio Grande Southern  
The Gallopin' Goose  
With a Pierce-Arrow engine  
Runnin' hot and on the loose  
Came Number Five, The Gallopin' Goose  
[Musical interlude here.]  
Down the three-percent to Rico  
In the valley of Dolores  
They still talk about the Southern  
An' her flock of flyin' geese  
From the roundhouse at Ridgway  
To the depot at Durango  
All the tracks are gone for scrap iron  
And the ganders rest in peace

Up the canyons south of Sawpit  
Past the red Cathedral spires  
'Cross the yellow mountain switchbacks  
And the rapids far below  
On the high and lofty trestles  
Near the fabled mines of Ophir  
In the silver San Juan Mountains  
There's a legend in the snow

[Chorus]

With a Pierce-Arrow engine  
Runnin' hot and on the loose  
Came the Rio Grande Southern  
The Gallopin' Goose  
With a Pierce-Arrow engine  
Runnin' hot and on the loose  
Came Number Five, The Gallopin' Goose