

## Paddy on the Road

Christy Moore

I've won a heroes name with McAlpine and Costain  
With Fitzpatrick, Murphy, Ashe and Wimpey's gang  
I've been often on the road on my way to draw the dole  
When there's nothing left to do for Sir John Laing  
I used to think that God made the mixer pick and hod  
So that Paddy might know hell above the ground  
I've had gangers big and tough tell me tear it all out  
rough  
When you're building up and tearing England down  
In a tunnel underground a young Limerick man was found  
He was built into the new Victoria Line  
When the pouring gang had past sticking through the  
concrete cast  
Was the face of little Charlie Joe Devine  
And the ganger man McGurk big Paddy ate the work  
When the gas main burst and he flew off the ground  
Oh they swear he said "Don't slack, I'll not be here  
until I'm back"  
Keep on building up and tearing England down  
I remember Carrier Jack with his hod upon his back  
How he swore he'd one day set the world on fire  
But his face they've never seen since his shovel it cut  
clean  
Through the middle of a big high tension wire  
I saw auld Bald McGann from the big flyover fall  
Into a concrete mixer spinning round  
Although his life was spent he got a fine head of  
cement  
As he was building up and tearing England down  
I was on the hydro dam the day that Pat McCann  
Got the better of his stammer in a week  
He fell from the shuttering jam and that poor auld  
stuttering man  
He was never ever more inclined to speak  
No more like Robin Hood will he roam through  
Cricklewood  
Or dance around the pubs of Camden Town  
But let no man complain Paddy does not die in vain  
When he's building up and tearing England down  
So come all you navvies bold who think that English  
gold  
Is just waiting to be taken from each sod  
Or that the likes of you and me could ever get an OBE  
Or an knighthood for good service to the hod  
They've the concrete master race to keep you in your  
place  
The ganger man to kick you to the ground  
If you ever try to take part of what the bosses make  
When they're building up and tearing England down