

# REUBEN'S TRAIN

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Bill Monroe; J.D. Crowe; Blue Mountain Boys; Cockerham, Jarrell and Jenkins; Dillard's; Flatt & Scruggs & the Foggy Mountain Boys; Wade Mainer and the Sons of the Mountaineers; Frank Proffitt; Tony Rice; Roscoe Holcomb and Wade Ward; Doc Watson; **OTHER NAMES:** Train 45; Ruben/Ruben's Train; **RELATED TO:** Long Steel Rail; Train 45; Ruby (Are You Mad at Your Man?); Seventy Four; Nine Hundred Miles/One Hundred Miles; Longest Train I Ever Saw; **NOTES:** A banjo tune and song which Frank Proffitt pronounced as "one of the oldest simple banjo tunes...it was the first tune generally learned. There are about fifty different verses to this, as everybody added them all along" [Warner]. G.B. Grayson, born in 1887 in Ashe County, North Carolina 1928 cut the first recording of "Train 45" derived from "Reuban's Train." The old-timey song "Keep My Skillet Good and Greasy" is also a related tune.

D  
Reu-ben had a train he put it on the track You could hear the whis-tle

A D  
blow a hun - dred miles Oh me Oh

A D  
my you can hear the whis - tle blow a hun - dred miles.

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**D**  
Reuben had a train, he put it on the track

**A D**  
You could hear the whistle blow a hundred miles.

**D**  
**Chorus:** Oh me, oh my

**A D**  
You can hear the whistle blow a hundred miles.

I'm going to the East, I'm going to the West  
I'm going where them chilly winds don't blow. *Chorus*

Oh, you ought to been uptown and seen that train come down  
You could hear the whistle blow a hundred miles. *Chorus*

I'm walking these old ties with tears in my eyes  
I'm trying to read a letter from my home. *Chorus*

If that train runs right, I'll be home tomorrow night  
Arriving on that Train 45. *Chorus*