

The Engine Boy

Words and Music
Barry Goodman

The en - gine boy's em - ploy - ment is ess - en - tial to the run - ning of the rail - way - (the
 rail - way -), For he en - sures the pas - sage of the car - go that is car - ried on the
 rail - way - (the rail - way -). Each wag - gon - er and mot - or - ist will know his friendly face As he
 stands with flag and stop - board at ev - ery pass - ing place To halt each car and car - riage and to
 keep the car - go safe As it tra - vels from the quar - ry on the rail - way

1. The engine boy's employment is essential to the running of the railway (*the railway*), For he ensures the passage of the cargo that is carried on the railway (*the railway*). Each waggoner and motorist will know his friendly face As he stands with flag and stop-board at every passing place To halt each car and carriage and to keep the cargo safe As it travels from the quarry on the railway.
2. The old dobbers load the sand at Double Arches at the top end of the railway (*the railway*), And when we get to Clipstone Brook we'll cross a wooden bridge upon the railway (*the railway*). I wave my flag at Eastern Way to stop the traffic flow, And then it's on to Vandyke Road and Munday's Hill we go Across the Swing-Swang Bridge until we reach the Hockliffe Road Where I wave my flag again for the railway.
3. Then it's on past Marley Tiles to where the Stanbridge Road runs right across the railway (*the railway*), I stop the traffic once again, then jump on for the last stretch of the railway (*the railway*). We rattle past the concrete works, our journey's nearly done, We pass the empty loco sheds, the last part of the run, Then shovel sand in main line wagons for its journey on To factory, port and warehouse on the railway.
4. At six o'clock old Chazzy Mynall starts his working day upon the railway (*the railway*), He's the driver and he taught me all the things I need to know about the railway (*the railway*). When the dobbers in the quarry have a horse they want to back, Old Chazzy takes their money and he puts it in his sack, And he drives it to the bookies in his engine down the track, And he brings their winnings back along the railway.
5. Some people in their houses wave a greeting to the workers on the railway (*the railway*), They even bring us biscuits or a cake to keep us going on the railway (*the railway*). But sometimes in November when the fog comes down like night, The engine boy puts by his flag and sets the lamp alight And hopes that at the crossings he will still be seen all right With his warning for the safety of the railway.
6. In winter in the ice and snow the engine cab is freezing on the railway (*the railway*), Our hands and feet so cold they're almost sticking to the bars upon the railway (*the railway*). We'll sometimes pick a cabbage up as through the fields we ride Or try our hand at catching rats when we are stuck inside; Whatever fate can throw at us, we'll take it in our stride As we carry Arnold's sand upon the railway.

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At Leighton Buzzard, sand was transported from the pits by narrow gauge railway and deposited at depots alongside the mainline railway for transport all over the world. This song relates stories told by a former *engine boy*, Ray Gurney.

This song was part of a commission for the Leighton Buzzard *Sands of Time* oral history project.
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