

James McConnell

Words and Music by Paul Clark

Verse 1

I come from Daley, Ayrshire,
McConnell is my name.
I'm a first-class railway engineer
And few can make that claim, I say
And few can make that claim.

Verse 2

At thirteen I set out from home
And learned to make my way.
I studied at night in the Institute,
Apprenticed in the Works by day,
Did apprentice work by day.

Verse 3

In Glasgow and in Liverpool,
I learned the mechanics' skill.
At the drawing board I used my brains,
On the shop floor used my strength and will,
I lived by brains and will.

Verse 4

I've worked on jennies, I worked on mules,
On cranes that sit dockside.
I've built a crystal palace too,
But locomotives are my pride,
Locomotives are my pride.

Verse 5

On the Birmingham and Gloucester line,
Where Yankee engines fail,
Up a one in thirty seven grade,
One of my engines specially made,
Carries people, freight and mail.

Verse 6

And now I've come to Wolverton.

My terms are fair and square.

I want good labour, I want good men,

And I shall do my share I say,

And I shall do my share.