The Wild Mustard River

As sung by Eddie Ashlaw

Very freely

Capo: 3

1. Come all of you boys of the river, Pay at -
2. We were camped on the Wild Mustard River; It's_____
3. It's then we got up and got ready With_____
4. For the waters came rushing and roaring Right_____
5. For we worked for an hour and a quarter, **Til_____

D C G A

tension to me for a while, I will sing you a song of the
down by the old Henry Dam, As we rolled from our blankets one
peaves and picks we supplied, While some of the boys took the
down on the tail end of the jam, For you know how the waters wild
hauling it seemed most despair, But after the waters worked

G D A D

sad fate Be - fell my friend, chum, Johnny Stile______
morning, On the rocks there we spied a big jam_____
foot trail To open the reservoir dam_____
flowing With a flood from a reservoir dam_____
through her, Like lighting she pulled out of there_____

6. It's "Rider her, ride down to dead waters,"
Our foreman he cried, we obeyed.
Not a man in our number but had rode her,
Not a man in our crew was afraid.

7. There was not a man on the logs better
Than my friend, it's my chum, Johnny Stile,
For he'd rode in her more times than any,
But always was careless and wild.

8. This day luck had proved hard against him:
His foot, it got caught in the jam.
And you know how the waters wild flowing,
They roll in but they never roll out.

9. For we worked for an hour and a quarter,
We had worked 'til the sweat down did pour,
And when that we'd got his poor body,
It did not look like him anymore.

10. He was crushed from his feet to his shoulders,
He was rolled out as thin as your hand;
But he never squealed 'til it was all over,
For Johnny had plenty of sand.

11. We buried him beneath the green willows,
Where the larks and the nightingales sing.
His grave, it was covered with flowers,
Wild flowers that bloom in the spring.

12. Way down on the Wild Mustard River,
Poor Johnny lies under the sod,
For on earth we'll find rest for his body,
And hope that his soul is with God.

*This G is often sung as an A (more so in the second instance than the first), and sometimes results in a modification of the pick-up which follows.
**In the field recording, Ashlaw inserts some extra words (probably in the process of remembering the song while singing it) which are not included here, as they add extra beats to the rhythm.