

King of the Road

Words & Music by Roger Miller © 1964 all rights reserved

Sing along with @ Roger Miller <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrhAC0dFis0>

B^b D[#] F B^b
Trailer for sale or rent, rooms to let, fifty cents.

B^b D[#] F
No phone, no pool, no pets, I ain't got no cigarettes;

B^b D[#]
Ah, but, two hours of pushin' broom,

F B^b
Buys an eight by twelve four-bit room.

B^b D[#] F B^b
I'm a man of means by no means, king of the road.

B^b D[#] F B^b
Third boxcar, midnight train, destination, Bangor, Maine.

B^b D[#] F
Old worn out suits and shoes, I don't pay no union dues.

B^b D[#]
I smoke old stogies I have found,

F B^b
Short, but not too big around.

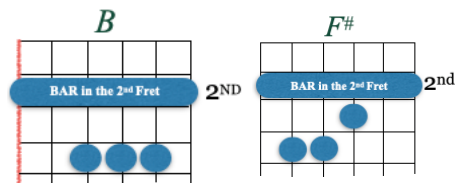
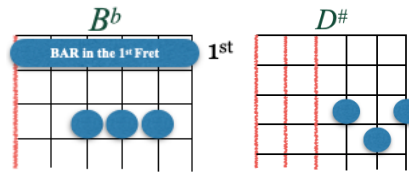
B^b D[#] F B^b
I'm a man of means by no means, king of the road.

B E
I know every engineer on every train;

F[#] B
All of their children, and all of their names.

B E
And every handout in every town;

F[#]
And every lock that ain't locked, when no one's around.



B E F[#] B
Trailer for sale or rent, rooms to let, fifty cents.

B E F[#]
No phone, no pool, no pets, I ain't got no cigarettes;

B E
Ah, but, two hours of pushin' broom,

F[#] B^b
Buys an eight by twelve four-bit room.

B^b E F[#] B^b
I'm a man of means by no means, king of the road.

OUTRO ~ REPEAT THE LAST CHORUS A CAPPELLA

History

"King of the Road" revels in freedom, humorously and cynically describing a "king of the road," written by Roger Miller and first recorded it in November 1964.



The easygoing, folkish "King of the Road" was something of a novelty, but in a warmly engaging, rather than outright humorous, way. Miller was a master of economical wordplay, and he deftly sketched the portrait of a footloose man at the bottom of society with short phrases, even including, for instance, quotations from cheap hotel notices: "no phone, no pool, no pets." He set the lyrics to a gently rolling melody, which he sang in an appropriately offhand, if rhythmic, manner.

"King of the Road" was Miller's fifth single for Smash Records. Released as a single in January 1965, Miller's "King of the Road" shot into the pop Top 40 by its second week in the charts, eventually topping the country and easy listening charts, reaching the pop Top Five, and going gold.

Wikipedia and <https://www.allmusic.com/song/king-of-the-road-mt0019476737>