

Tom Russell, Rayburn Crane

Rayburn Crane he rode these mountains
like the streams he rode 'em through
Through the Farewell Gap and the Franklin Lakes
Up North to Chagupa Plateau
With the government men and the hunters and the dudes
And the leaders of the business world
Yah, Rayburn Crane was a packhorse man
And a mighty good hand with a mule.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
The Mountains and the Valleys and the Trees
Remember your name.

He rode 45 years through the mountains and the
valleys just a-pullin' them strings of mules
And the ropes and the chaps and the halters & the
saddles well these were Rayburn's tools
Sittin' down at night by the firelight talkin'
and a-pullin' at the whiskers on his chin
You didn't need no music when Rayburn went to talkin'
'bout the mountains and the packhorse men.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
The Mountains and the Valleys and the Trees
Remember your name.

Well the business men they bought these
mountains for a big time ski resort
An Ol' Rayburn he's gone down to die
in a Three Rivers' trailer court
And the canvas-flapjack-cooktent moans
with the bushes and the trees in the wind
'Cause there ain't no place in a ski resort
for a mule skinnin' packhorse man.

Rayburn Crane, Rayburn Crane
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