

Elk River Blues

Ernie Carpenter

Arrangement (c) copyright 2022 by Donald J. Borchelt
Banjo Tuning: gDGBD

C

4/4 4/4 6/4

G

C

4/4 4/4 6/4

D7

Am

4/4 4/4 6/4

G

Am

4/4 4/4 6/4

G

1. Up the neck break

C

4/4 4/4 6/4

G

C

4/4 4/4 6/4

D7

Am

4/4 4/4 6/4

29

G Am

33

G

2.

The Elk River begins in high country in Pocahontus County, West Virginia, about ten miles north of town of Marlinton. From there it wanders west between the mountains, through Braxton, Clay, and Kanawha County, until it flows into the Kanawha River at Charleston. West Virginia fiddler Ernie Carpenter (1909 - 1997) was born in Sutton, along the Elk River in Braxton County. Carpetner said that he composed this tune as a lament, after the Army Corps of Engineers built a dam on the Elk River at Sutton, which flooded Carpenter's land and homestead.