

Run Ol' Molly Run

This traditional song is a fictional account of the [July 4, 1878 match race](#) between the Kentucky horse [Ten Broeck](#) and the California mare [Mollie McCarty](#) at the Louisville Jockey Club (now [Churchill Downs](#)). Ten Broeck won the race before a record crowd of 30,000. The song commonly states that Ten Broeck "was a big bay horse", and although he was a bay, he was "very compactly built" The song refers to a fatal outcome, which did not in fact occur; Mollie McCarty lived nearly five more years, winning multiple races and producing three foals. This song was first recorded by the Carver Brothers in 1929, and later by Bill Monroe. You can listen to it here: <https://youtu.be/8pK3kfq4y6Q?si=6CeUqrH2MIBbWUMh>

MOLLY AND TENBROOKS

Traditional

G **C**
Run ol' Molly run, run ol' Molly run –
G **D** **G**
Tenbrooks gonna beat you, to the bright shining sun.
D **G**
Bright shining sun, oh lord, bright shining sun.

Tenbrooks was a big bay horse, he wore a shaggy mane
He run all round Memphis, beat the Memphis train
Beat the Memphis train oh lord, beat the Memphis train.

Tenbrooks said to Molly, what makes your head so red –
Runnin in the hot sun, with a fever in my head.
Fever in my head oh lord, fever in my head.

Molly said to Tenbrooks, you're lookin mighty squirrel –
Tenbrooks said to Molly, I'm leavin this old world.
Leavin this old world, oh lord, leavin this old world.

Out to California, Molly done as she pleased,
Come back to old Kentucky, got beat with all ease.
Beat with all ease oh lord, beat with all ease.

The womens all are laughin, children all are crying –
Menfolks all a hollerin' – old Tenbrooks a'flyin.
Old Tenbrooks a flyin' lord, old Tenbrooks a flyin'.

Kuyper, Kuyper, you ain't ridin' right –
Molly's beatin Tenbrooks, clear out of sight.
Clear out of sight, oh lord, clear out of sight.

Kuyper, Kuyper – Kuyper my son –
Give old Tenbrooks the bridle, let old Tenbrooks run.
Let old Tenbrooks run, oh lord, let old Tenbrooks run.

Go and get old Tenbrooks, and hitch him in the shade –
They're going to bury old Molly – in a coffin ready made.
Coffin ready made, oh lord, coffin ready made.