"TRAVELIN' MAN" is an old minstrel show song
that has been altered by just about everybody who has performed it. The first known recording was March 8, 1928, in San Antonio, Texas by "Prince" Albert Hunt's Texas Ramblers. Other recordings include Pink Anderson, 1945; Ray Bookhinder; David Bromberg; Doc Watson; Neil Harpe.

C F C
Folk, I want to tell you 'bout a man named Bloom His home was in Tennessee
C D G
He made his living stealing chickens And everything else he could see
C F C
That pop-eyed man he run so fast His feet couldn't stay in the road
D G C
When a freight train passed No matter how fast, he could always get on board

CHORUS
C F C
He was a travelin' man Certainly was a travelin' man
C D G
He was the most travelin'est man There ever was in this land
C F C
He travelled everywhere Was known for miles around
D G C
And he never got caught and he never got whipped Til' the police shot him down

C F C
Well Bloom went down to the spring one day To fetch himself a pail of water
D G
The distance this rascal had to go Was about three miles and a quarter
C F C
Now he filled up the bucket and he started back Then he stumbled and fell down
F C
He ran back to the house, grabbed another bucket
G C D
And caught the water b'fore it hit the ground
F C
Well the police shot him with a rifle And the bullet went thru his head
D G
The folks was comin' from miles around Just to see if that boy was dead
F C
Telegraphed down south to where his mama lived She was all upset with tears
C D G
She walked up and opened up the coffin lid But that fool had disappeared

C F C
He was a travelin' man Certainly was a travelin' man
C D G
He was the most travelin'est man There ever was in this land
F C C
He travelled everywhere Was known for miles around
D G C
And he never got caught and he never got whipped

Til' the police shot him down

C F C
Now Bloom was on the Titanic Ship
D G C
When it was sinking low
F C
He was standing outside the railing
G C
And he had his head hung low
C F C
Well the people who saw him jump overboard
D G C
Said 'Get a load of that crazy fool!'
F C
But just 15 minutes after that
G C
He was shooting craps in Liverpool

Now the police caught that Bloom at last
D G C
They had him up to hang one day
F C
The judge leaned over, said 'My good man
G C
Do you have any last words to say?'
F C
He asked the courtroom to bow their heads
G C
To bow their heads in prayer
F C
Then he crossed one leg & winked one eye
G C
And vanished straight up in the air

[Spoken] Now I want you to understand that this man was rapid! Swift! Abrupt! Sudden! Precipitous! This guy was so fast— (How fast was he?) They used to say that the man could turn off the light and get under the covers before the room got dark!