

MILES TO GO by Jack Williams

Going joyfully into old age

I'm an old man with a pack on my back
Pledging my love to the railroad track
Railroad track and the dusty back road
Heaven's above and rivers and the valley below
Got a nickel in my jeans and a tickle in my soul
I don't bother thinking so I'll never grow old
I'll never grow old and I won't give a damn
If you take my nickel and you never know who I am

I never had a job but I worked all day
Made a good living, kept the wolves away
Kept the wolves away and burned the candle down
Woke every morning to the light of a brand-new town

Swallowtail lands in a nest by the bay
Near tall buildings where the marsh once lay
The marsh once lay and the moorhen cried
Fiddlers scurried at the rush of the rising tide

*I've got miles to go across the plain
Over big mountains in the sun and the rain
I'll take my chances in the great somewhere
If love comes callin' it'll find me there
(Last time only:)
Where the road ends. Where time begins
One star to guide me
Where the soul flies through endless sunrise
That's where you'll find me*

Life has been kind to me, that's a fact
Youth was a lark but I'd never go back
I'd never go back to those ways again
I'll follow that Ivory-Bill all the way around the bend

Blest be the child who sleeps on the ground
Walks through the forest and knows every sound
Knows every sound and speaks to the sky
And holds every critter in the light of her sunlit eye