

Ol' Snakeskin

Well I'm sittin' here on this hobo train  
just tryin to think of all the people that I could blame  
for this predicament that I'm in now that I've run away from home  
I'm just an angry young man who just can't seem to get along

Now there's an old man that I got to know sittin' next to me  
he smokes really cheap cigars and call himself Snakeskin Connoly  
he knows somethin' 'bout everything and he swears it's all true  
some other bum told me he won't shut-up there's nothing we can do

Old man why don't you just quiet down  
I know you're trying hard but you're never gonna make this frown  
disappear from my face until I get some peace of mind  
I wish there was a way to leave this old cootin' codger behind

Hey, hey, hey you're just an old man  
I don't care what you say

Now we've gone five-hundred miles on up the California line  
ol' Snakeskin hasn't shut-up yet, he's tellin' stories all the time  
nobody cares about the war or about how many men you killed  
and I don't really give a damn 'bout your Tennessee moonshine still

Old man won't you listen to me and my bitter truth  
I'm a product of a broken home and resentful of my shattered youth  
and I don't want to hear you rambling on and on through the night  
your stories don't amuse me and your advice will never change my plight

Hey, hey, hey, you're just an old man  
I don't care what you say

Now weeks had passed on the hobo train as we chugged across the land  
and something changed inside my heart- something that I hadn't planned  
and when ol' Snakeskin was around I listened to him for awhile  
he seemed to be a man of strength who faced his hardships with a smile

Now one day as we chugged along I looked around to my surprise  
ol' Snakeskin was nowhere in sight - somebody told me that he died  
my heart clenched like a knotted fist I never thought it'd come to this  
he lived his life out on the tracks and now he wasn't comin' back

Old man wherever you may be, in heaven I hope you can hear  
try to understand I'm just a boy full of hate anger and fear  
and though I didn't listen to you until the very end  
I feel it in my heart that on this earth you were my only friend