

# 12 O'Clock Whistle

James McMurtry

Advisory - the following lyrics contain explicit language:

The air raid siren at the high school blew  
Every weekday, twelve o'clock noon  
Dinner time, people as if we didn't know  
I guess the city fathers liked to hear that thing blow  
The boys were chasing the city truck, spraying DDT  
It kept the mosquitoes down  
And that stuff won't hurt you none the neighbor lady'd say  
Encephalitis, now that can ruin your day  
Granny was hanging out wash, talking across the fence  
The neighbor lady nodded like it all made sense  
She's just gonna stay with him 'til the kids are grown  
Fetch me that clothes pin up off the ground would you hon'  
Won't you stay with me 'til the sun goes down?  
On that flat top mountain to the West of town  
Won't you stay a while, I just don't see  
Why you must be leaving? Won't you stay with me?  
I had a cherry coke dripping on my cowboy clothes  
Riding down Scott street in that big white Olds  
We're going through nigger town, honey lock your doors  
'Course that's not what we're supposed to call 'em anymore  
We're going to the beauty shop, it's not too far  
You can come inside or you can just set in the car  
No you can't go with grandpa to the pasture today  
They're shipping calves and you'd just get in the way  
Won't you stay with me 'til the sun goes down?  
On that flat top mountain to the West of town  
Won't you stay a while, I just don't see  
Why you must be leaving? Won't you stay with me?  
We had fried okra and black eyed peas  
Granny had her saccharin, she was putting it in her tea  
Pull that screen door to hon' you're letting in flies  
Don't you know nothing Yonder comes the pickup, he's coming down the street  
Run help him put the horses up so we can eat  
He's always late for dinner, Lord, he moves so slow  
12 o'clock whistle blew half an hour ago  
Won't you stay with me 'til the sun goes down?  
On that flat top mountain to the West of town  
Won't you stay a while, I just don't see  
Why you must be leaving? Won't you stay with me?

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