He Was In Heaven Before He Died

John Prine

There's a rainbow of babies
Draped over the graveyard
Where all the dead sailors
Wait for their brides
And the cold bitter snow
Has strangled each grass blade
Where the salt from their tears
Washed out with the tide
And I smiled on the Wabash
The last time I passed it
Yes, I gave her a wink
From the passenger side
And my foot fell asleep
As I swallowed my candy
Knowing he was in Heaven
Before he died
Now a harbor's on fire
With the dreams and desires
Of a thousand young poets
Who failed 'cause they tried
For a rhyme without reason
Floats down to the bottom
Where the scavengers eat 'em
And wash in with the tide

And I smiled on the Wabash
The last time I passed it
Yes, I gave her a wink
From the passenger side
And my foot fell asleep
As I swallowed my candy
Knowing he was in Heaven
Before he died
The sun can play tricks
With your eyes on the highway
The moon can lay sideways
Till the ocean stands still
But a person can't tell
His best friend he loves him

Till time has stopped breathing
You're alone on the hill
And I smiled on the Wabash
The last time I passed it
Yes, I gave her a wink
From the passenger side
And my foot fell asleep
As I swallowed my candy
Knowing he was in Heaven
Before he died

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