

# Leonard

## Merle Haggard

When Leonard finally came to California  
He was twenty-one years old as I recall  
He loved to write a song and pick the guitar  
And he came to hang a gold one on the wall  
The town in which he lived is not important  
But you'll know which town I mean by the time I'm through  
He soon became a famous entertainer  
But Leonard was a name he never used  
He was on his way to having what he wanted  
Just about as close as one could be  
Hey, once he even followed Elvis Presley  
And he wrote a lot of country songs for me  
But he laid it all aside to follow Jesus  
For years he chose to let his music go  
But preaching wasn't really meant for Leonard  
But how in the hell was Leonard supposed to know  
Well, life began to twist its way around him  
And I wondered how he carried such a load  
He came back again to try his luck in music  
And lost his wife and family on the road  
After that he seemed to bog down even deeper  
And I saw what booze and pills could really do  
And I wondered if I'd ever see him sober  
But I forgot about a friend that Leonard knew  
Well, Leonard gave me lots of inspiration  
He helped teach me how to write a country song  
And he even brought around a bag of groceries  
Hey, back before Muskogee came along  
Really I'm not trying to hide his show name  
Or the town in which this episode began  
Somehow I had to write a song for old Tommy  
If just to see the smilin' faces in the band  
When Leonard finally came to California  
He was twenty-one years old as I recall  
And he loved to write a song and pick the guitar  
And he came to hang a gold one on the wall

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