Laid a Highway

Tift Merritt

This was a town took care of it's own
That's what me and my children have known
I worked the mill the way my parents did
I remember this town when I was a kidSitting through the movies twice
Open windows late at night
Slipping out in the summer heat
To meet John Miller in the middle of the streetThey laid a highway a few years back
Next town over by the railroad track
Some nights, I'm glad it passed us by
Some nights, I sit and watch my hometown dieI'm fifty-five and when the mill burned down
I wasn't much past a pretty young gal
The boss lit a match in the oily night
Cops never had enough to set it rightSo while the company traded with our lives
We were busy watching that slow moon rise
Dancing on the dry grass bridge
Making love down by the Cedar County BridgeThey laid a highway a few years back
Next town over by the railroad track
Some nights, I'm glad it passed us by
Some nights, I sit and watch my hometown dieThey never came to tear that old place down
They roped it off, but you can walk around
See the dust on the rusted doors
Watch the rain fall through the burned out floorsThis was a town took care of it's own
This was a town doing fine all alone
The mill got out a quarter to five
You could eat supper with any family you likedThey laid a highway a few years back
Next town over by the railroad track
Some nights, I'm glad it passed us by
Some nights, I sit and watch this hometown die

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