

Angels Can Do No More

Don Edwards

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Written by Andy Wilkinson

We laid young Sammy to his rest
Dug a deep hole, then we did our best
To say the right things as we knocked the dirt from the shovel

So far from God so near to a life of trouble

No more than a boy when he died like a man
We stood around his grave with our hats in our hands
Leanin' first on one foot and then on the other

Wishin' we'd a-knowned what to say to write to his mother

But there ain't much to say when a man dies young
Before he can do what he should have done
Leastways, the cowboys that knowed him swore

"Sammy done his damnedest, angels can do no more"

We stared at our boots, and nobody spoke
'Til the trail boss coughed, and cleared his throat
And said to the cook, "Tear a plank off the chuckwagon
And bring it here to mark the grave of our young companion"

So the wranglers made a fire out of dry prairie coal
The wind fanned the flames 'til the brandin' irons glowed

Then we burned in the wood the words we should'a been sayin'

Down on our knees like a bunch of growed men a-prayin'

But there ain't much to say when a man dies young
Before he can do what he should have done
Leastways, the cowboys that knowed him swore

"Sammy done his damnedest, angels can do no more"

Now, Sammy rode hard and never complained

Two long years on the Rockin' Chair range
Chasin' them strays down the Salt Fork of the Red River
Angels' and cowboys' work, it goes on forever

And as for myself, when it's my turn to die
I hope there's a cowhand or two standing' by
To pack down the dirt and carry the news to the family

And say over me what we should'a said over Sammy

But there ain't much to say when a man dies young
Before he can do what he should have done
Leastways, the cowboys that knowed him swore

"Sammy done his damnedest, angels can do no more"

No, there ain't much to say when a man dies young
Before he can do what he should have done

"Sammy done his damnedest and angels can do no more"

Lyrics Submitted by Stan Swihart

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