

## **Bill Anderson**

# **"Twenty Years"**

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I asked the man who drove the bus  
To let me off at Maple Avenue  
He looked at me through puzzled eyes  
And said, "You don't live around here, do you?"

I said, "No but I don't come from quite as far back  
In the steeps as it appears"  
He said, "Yeah but we ain't had a Maple Avenue  
Around here for twenty years"

I got off the bus and asked a man  
To show me how to get to Sam's cafe  
He stared at me real funny, said  
"They tore it down when Big Sam passed away"

I said, "Well, I've been away a while  
I guess perhaps my memory's not too clear"  
He shook his head and said, "It's sad  
But Sam's been gone for almost twenty years"

My old hometown sure has changed in twenty years  
I guess there's no point asking if Betty, Carol, Jackson  
Still lives anywhere close to here  
This is where I always thought we'd build our dream  
house  
But that dream disappeared  
And that's the biggest reason I've only come back once  
in twenty years

I remember it just like yesterday  
The Friday night we held our senior prom  
I'd walked outside to get some air  
And found her there in Billy Taylor's arms

The kids all laughed at me and said  
They known about it since our junior year  
I got so mad and hurt so bad  
I hit the road and stayed for twenty years

It still hurts today the same way it's hurt for twenty  
years  
All the heartaches linger and they still point their finger

at me  
And all my painful souvenirs, I thought maybe I'd  
matured a bit  
But I guess I'm still wet behind the years

I think I'll head home down the road  
Maybe try again in twenty years  
Yeah, I guess I'll head home down the road  
You can look for me again in twenty years

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