

Norman Blake

"Greenlight On The Southern"

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Standing on the sidetrack at the south end of town
on a hot dry dusty august day the steam pipe pouring
down
the fireman with his long oil can oiling the old valve
gears
waiting for the semaphore the fast mail train to clear

The engineer in the old high cab his gold watch in his
hand
looking at the waterglass and letting down the sand
rolling out on the old main line taking up the slack
gone today so they say but tomorrow he'll be back

oh if I could return
to those boyhood days of mine
and the greenlight on the southern southern railroad
line

creeping down the rusty rails of the weed grown
branch line
the section houses gray and white by the yard limit
sign
the hoppers call the old high ball no more time to wait
rolling down to birmingham with a 10 car load for
freight

the whistle scream with a hiss of steam the headlight
gleams clear
the drivers roll on the green and go getting mighty
near
handing up the orders to the engine crew on time
it's the Alabama great southern AGS railroad line

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