

Robert Wilkins

"Long Train Coming"

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She walked down the yard, caught the longest train she
seen

She walked down the yard, caught the longest train she
seen

Said she'd ride and ride "till the blues wear offa me"

It's two bullyin'¹ freight trains runnin' side by side

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They done stole my rider and I guess they're satisfied

They rode in the Delta, kept on easin' by

They rode in the Delta, kept on easin' by

Know I feel just like she said her last goodbye

Friend, she won't write, she won't telephone

Friend, she won't write, she won't telephone

Makes me believe to my soul my rider calls that

"gone"²

But if I had wings, friend, like Noah's dove

Friend, if I had wings, friend, like Noah's dove

I would raise and fly, God knows, where my lover was

I laid down at night, I can't sleep at all

I laid down at night, I can't sleep at all

Awful lyin' there wondering if someone rollin' in her
arms

Laid my head on my pillow, friends, it be's too high

Laid my head on my pillow, friends, it be's too high

Taken down with the (devil?), I'm gettin' sick and 'bout
to die

Note 1: bullyin', a once fashionable superlative;

Note 2: the sham departure is reflected in an old black
proverb, "Every goodbye ain't gone".

